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102
FEB
2005

MacAddict

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The best-looking game ever is here. Are you ready? Is your Mac? We've got the answers.

REVIEWED:

30-INCH CINEMA HD DISPLAY

- Palm Tungsten T5
- Virtual PC 7
- RadioShark
- Painter IX

...and 19 more



HOW TO:

- ➔ Podcast Your Own Talk Show
- ➔ Take Fab Photos on the Cheap

PUMP UP YOUR 'POD!

12 ways to make your iPod more than just a music machine

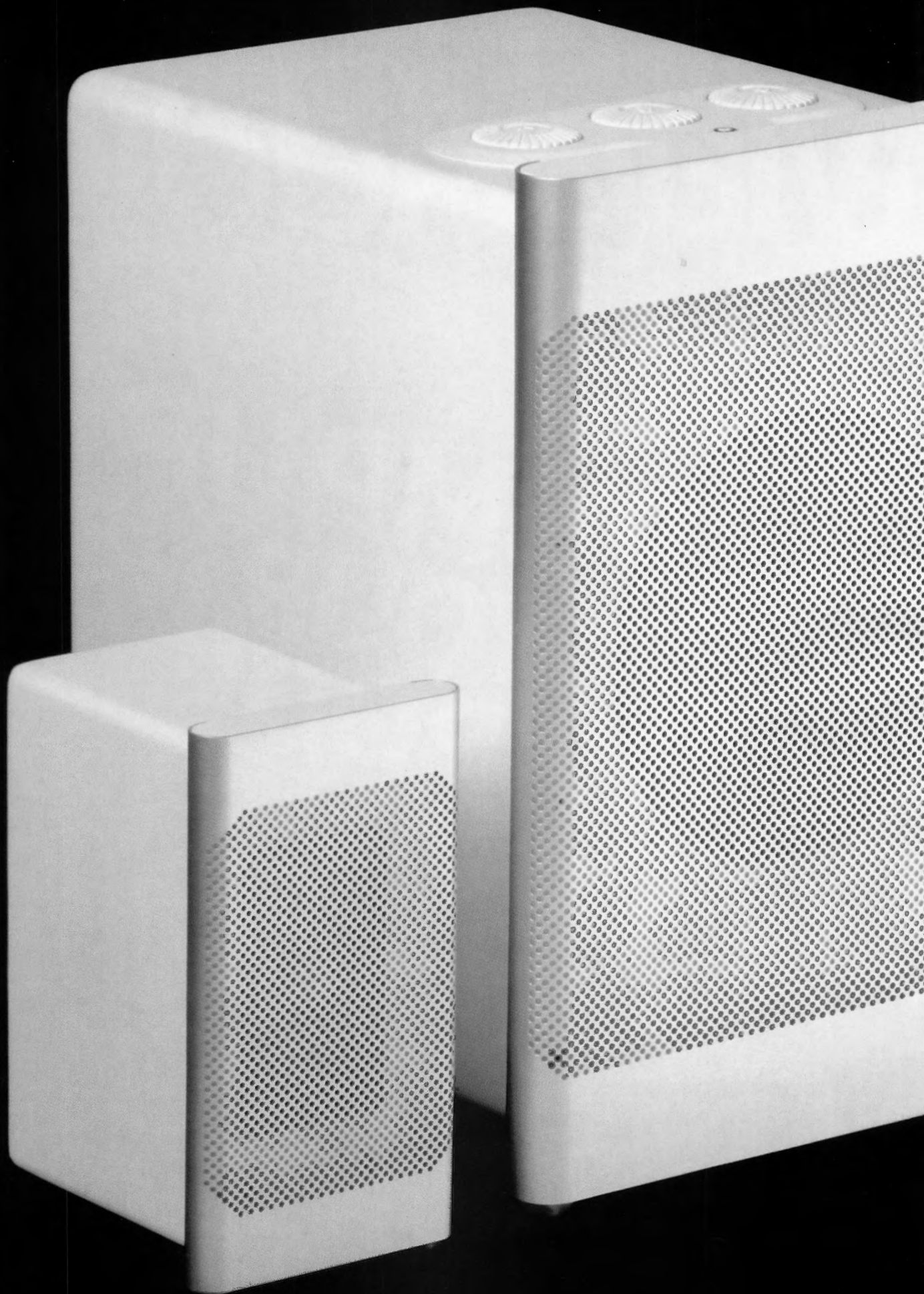
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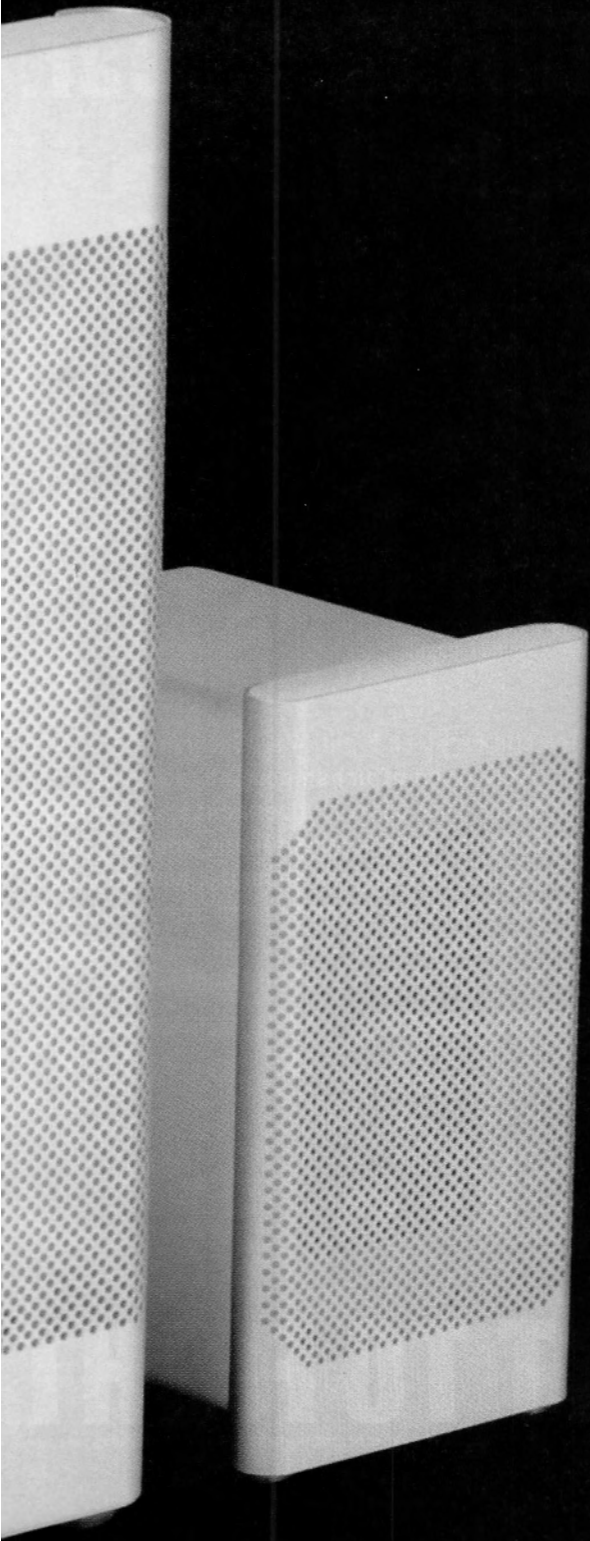


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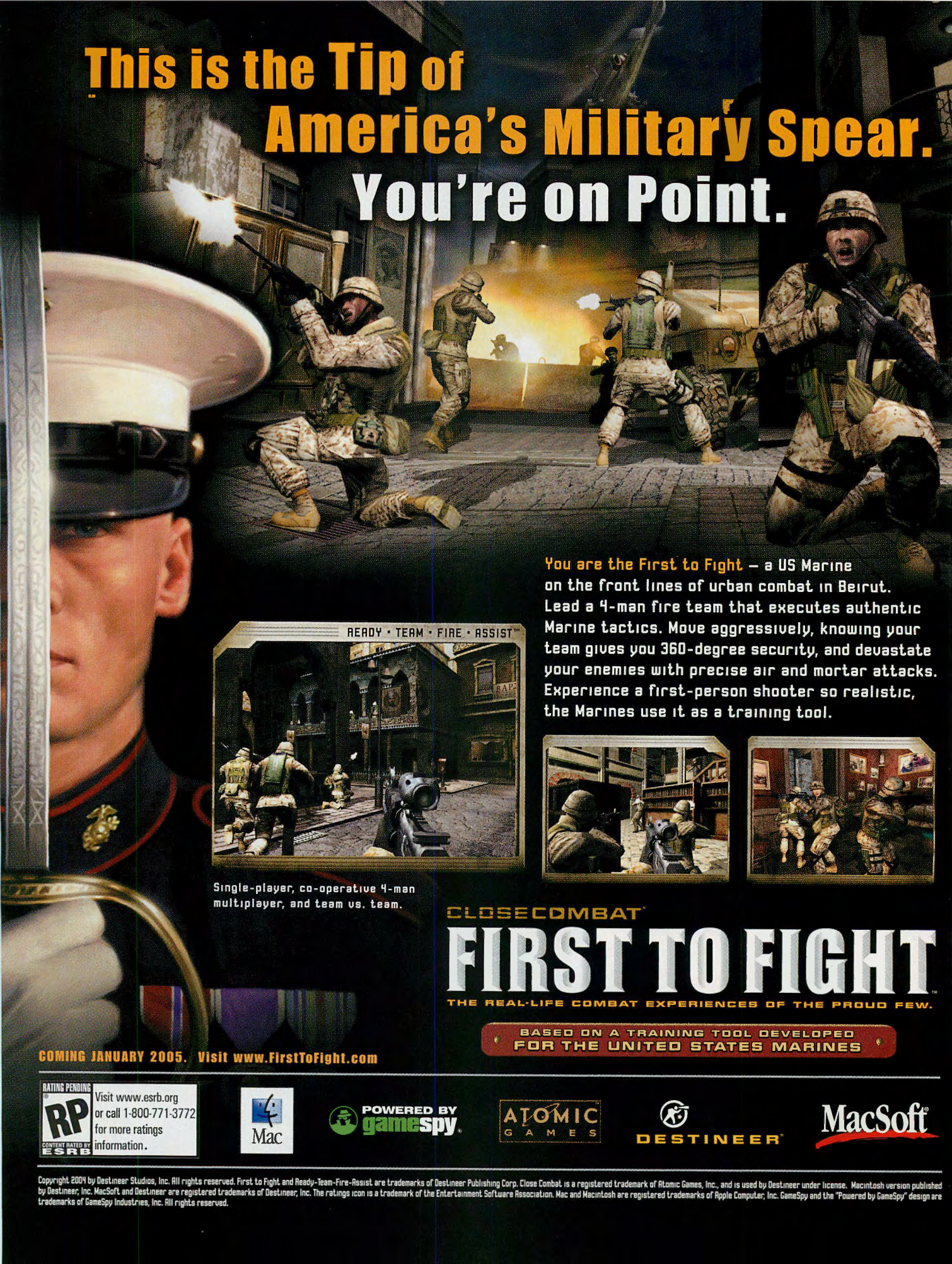


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features

18 iPod Superpowers

Think the iPod's just for music? Think again. We show you how to transmogrify your 'Pod into your personal assistant, foreign language translator, bartender, karaoke machine, gourmet chef, librarian, photo vault, weapon of mass instruction, and more. **by Kris Fong**

28 Meet Your Doom 3

Doom 3 is as scary as hell—and for good reason. Get ready to fight demons and other hellspawn, including the aptly named Arch-Viles. We give you a taste of what to expect when it comes to the Mac and when you go to hell later this month. **by Niko Coucouvanis**

how to

54 Ask Us

Learn how to print multipage posters and perfectly addressed envelopes. Exorcize iPhoto's demons—orphaned, redundant, and temporary files—and put the kibosh on P2P file sharing. We also throw in the roadmap to your Mac's hidden Unix directories and clue you in as to what's going on when Installer says that it's Optimizing System Performance.

56 Take Fab Photos on the Cheap

You've got some unwanted holiday gifts to unload on eBay, and what a coincidence: We've got some low-budget photography tips guaranteed to make any old piece of junk look positively priceless—or at least pretty precious.

by Steven Parké



58 Podcast Your Own Talk Show

Podcasting is the new rage that lets iPod owners download audio broadcasts to enjoy on an iPod later—but any chimp can do that. We take you to the next level, where you produce and broadcast the content yourself. **by Niko Coucouvanis**



every month

08 Editor's Page

The Internet is rapidly becoming a necessity—too bad it's too expensive for many.

10 Get Info

The iPod photo is here but may not have all the features you want. Dare you ask...what are your alternatives? Find out what devices hope to pommel the 'Pod by offering larger color screens, video playback, and competitive prices. Also learn about a cheaper alternative to .Mac, find out what Microsoft has in store for the Mac, get a peek at a zombie with deadly flatulence, and a whole lot more.

35 Reviews

- 36 30-inch Cinema HD Display display
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- 42 Tungsten T5 PDA
- 37 Virtual PC for Mac Version 7 with Windows XP Windows emulator

52 The Hot List

We'd spend our own hard-earned money on these products.


QUICK TIPS

FROM THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

➔ FASTER STROKES

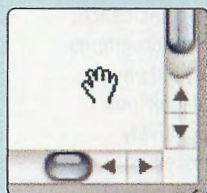
When your brush seems slow, tweak Painter IX's Boost Slider to make it faster. Corel says this mode uses fewer random strokes and therefore boosts performance, but we barely saw any degradation after mashing together a bunch of strokes and colors.

From *Reviews*, p38.

Boost:  60%

➔ GIVE YOURSELF A HAND

Instead of scrolling through an overpopulated Finder window in icon

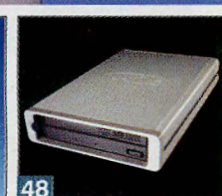


view, press Command-Option to turn your cursor into a grabby hand and drag the window's contents into view. From *Ask Us*, p54.

➔ IS YOUR MAC DOOMED?

Doom 3 is coming, and Mac addicts everywhere want to know one thing:

Can my Mac handle it? Sure, as long as it's a Power Mac G5—and if you haven't upgraded your G5's video card, you'll probably want to. From *"Meet Your Doom 3,"* p28.





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the disc

Not only does this month's Disc include all the software you need to join the Podcasting revolution (see "Podcast Your Own Talk Show," p58), we also provide you with a demo of Grid2, a trial version of Painter IX, iPoker and nine other nifty games and puzzles—plus a whole lot more.

Grid2 demo

We have a demo of the dazzling video-DJ software, Grid2, and 20 tasty—and exclusive—clips to get you started.



Painter IX trial

For years, Painter has been the world's best natural-media painting app—and with version IX, it gets even better.



iPoker

What's the hottest game around? Poker, of course! With iPoker you can have all of the fun with none of the pecuniary pain.



AUDIO & MUSIC

ISweep 1.3
LineIn 1.2
Soundflower 1.1

DEVELOPMENT

BBEdit 8.0.2 demo
REALbasic OS X 5.5.4 demo

FUN & GAMES

Blackjack Card Counter 2.7
Clan MacAddict CTF Map Pack
Davtri Haiku Generator 2.0
Davtri Insult Generator 2.0
iPoker 3.2.6
Neko Puzzle 1.1.4
SuperTux 0.1.2
Ultimaze 2.0
Vega Strike 0.4.1
Zen Puzzle Garden 1.1.4

GRAPHICS & MULTIMEDIA

DeskDoodle 1.1
EasyFrame 1.1.3
Grid2 2.0 demo
Painter IX 9.0 trial
Photo to Movie 3.1.1

Poster Print 2.0

RadicalPhoto 1.1.1

INTERFACE

AquaChat AV 1.01
Looking Glass 1.1.1
Safari Aquafier 4.1

INTERNET & COMMUNICATION

iPodderX 2.2
JiWire Portable Hotspot

Locator 1.0

SafariSpeed 1.2.1
Snail Mail 0.5.1
Transmit 2.6.2

PRODUCTIVITY

Loan Helper 1.1.0
Macabinet 1.7.6
Totem demo

UTILITIES

ChangeShortName 1.1

Compost 1.3

DiscBlaze 4.2.5
DiskTracker (Classic) 2.3
DiskTracker (OS X) 2.3
Illumination 1.5.4
iPhoto Extractor 2.0b6

SPONSORS

JiWire Portable Hotspot
Locator 1.0
Photo to Movie 3.1.1

Staff Video: The Making of Into the Groove

Learn how video artist Digital Droo created a killer music video using everyday sounds—and if you missed *Into the Groove* last month, we've got it for you again (plus outtakes).



UPGRADE

If you don't receive the Disc with your copy of *MacAddict*, you might want to consider upgrading. Each monthly disc contains cool demos, useful shareware and freeware, and the inimitable MacAddict Staff Video. To get 12 issues of MacAddict that include this value-packed disc with your subscription (prorated if necessary) for just \$1 more per issue, call 888-771-6222—the operator will take care of everything.

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MacAddict

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Digitally Divided



I recently had the good fortune of spending a week with Apple's fabulous new 30-inch Cinema HD Display (p36). I've never been more reluctant to return a product after testing, and I briefly considered buying one for myself. But I soon came to my fiscal senses. My first reaction to the realization that I can't afford such an expensive technological wonder was vibrant, electric-green jealousy toward

those who can. That lasted about a nanosecond before my better self admonished me, "Rik, grow up. You own a house full of Macs, a Cat-5e home network, and a 1.5-Mbps DSL connection to the Internet. You're one of the fortunate few."

My better self is right—I am fortunate. The digital divide, so prominent in the news just a few years back, remains a stark reality—so stark that soon-to-be-unemployed Colin Powell has referred to the technological gap between the well-to-do and the down-and-out as "digital apartheid." And the divide isn't narrowing. According to one recent study (www.consumersunion.org/pub/ddnewbook.pdf), the percentage of Americans that has Internet access has stagnated at around 60 percent since late 2000. Although this number sounds comfortably high, consider that it's bloated with tony folks: About 85 percent of households with incomes greater than \$75,000 have home Internet access, while over half of the households with incomes under \$30,000 a year don't; four out of five households without access have incomes under \$50,000 a year.

Another recent study by the U.S. government's Economics and Statistics Administration (<https://www.esa.doc.gov>) paints a rosier picture, stating that a third of American households have broadband access to the Internet—but less heartening is that that access is also highly skewed by income: If you make over \$75,000, you're around five times more likely to have broadband Internet access than if you're stuck under \$25,000—if you have Internet access at all.

Access to the Internet is rapidly becoming a necessity rather than a luxury. News, email, government services, school work, shopping—everything is going online. If you don't have access, you're relegated to second-class status in our culture, economy, and educational system. Sure, you can argue that uneven income distribution is a fact of life; some of us drive BMWs and some '80s-era Toyotas—but we all drive on the same roads. Perhaps it's time for the government to institute a free information superhighway, much as it began the free interstate highway system back in 1956.

Enjoy,

Rik

coming soon: march 2005

Here's what our editors are preparing for the next issue of *MacAddict*.

Apple's elegant sense of design has inspired other manufacturers to create equally gorgeous products—and we'll showcase the best in **MacAddict's First Annual Design Awards**. We'll also take a close look at all the goodies that Steve rolls out at the **January Mac Expo**. We'll then explore **hidden features of Safari**, show you how to **trick out your QuickTime movies** with custom controls, and **do your .Mac blog up right**. Reviews? We got 'em—read our opinions of **Apple's Logic Pro 7**, **Adobe Photoshop Elements 3**, a pair of new Canon cameras—the **EOS 20D** and **PowerShot A85**—the mongo **Xerox 7750DN color laser printer**, and a whole lot more.

STAFF RANTS

Q: How would your life be different without Internet access?



Jenifer Morgan BARBIE (AS THE PRINCESS—NOT THE PAUPER)

How would your life be different without Internet access?

The Internet is my indispensable lady-in-waiting. She finds new gowns for me to wear, which are magically delivered to my palace door; she shuttles messages to fellow royalty (as well as my many minions); and she arranges videochat trysts with my Prince Charming.



Niko Coucouvanis THE GRIDDLER

How would your life be different without Internet access?

Well, privilege is one thing; priorities are another. I drive a 10-year-old beater Volkswagen and eat Top Ramen to save cash for my digital habits. I suppose if I hadn't gotten sucked into the Internet's info vortex, I'd still be slinging hash—but you can bet I'd have one tricked-out ride and all of the cable TV channels.



Jake Widman DOCTOR OF TRIVIOLOGY

How would your life be different without Internet access?

Number one, I wouldn't know half of the useless crap that I know now. My compulsion to follow every link leads me directly to number two: My girlfriend would be a lot happier.



Mark Rosenthal SON OF A LIBRARIAN

How would your life be different without Internet access?

The library is a great way to go for those who can't afford a broadband subscription. And since the library isn't as cozy as home, you won't waste time surfing your day away. Yes, there is a digital divide, but better use of our free institutions can help.



Noah Tsutsui COMMAND-LINE COMRADE

How would your life be different without Internet access?

If not for the glorious oracle known as the Internet, I'd still be one of those antisocial BBS kids, locked in my room and communicating at 2400 baud.



Roman Loyola RECOVERED WEB SLINGER

How would your life be different without Internet access?

Before coming to *MacAddict*, I was in the dot-com biz for five years, so without the Internet I'd probably still be in a previous profession—one that put to good use my ability to rapidly lace any shoe in under 10 seconds.



Peter Marshutz MERRIMENT SURFER

How would your life be different without Internet access?

I use the Internet mostly for entertainment—maybe it should be called the Entertainmentnet. But I also do a lot of research on the Internet, finding facts on everything from recipes to cars. Without it I would spend a lot more time in the library—in fact, I don't think I've been to a library since I began using the Internet.

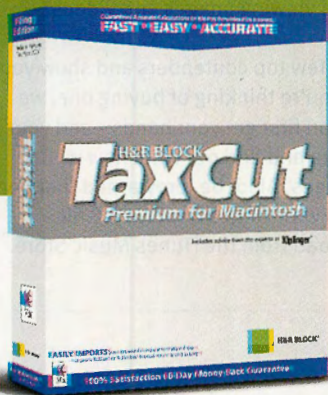


Max FORUM FANATIC

How would your life be different without Internet access?

I'd certainly miss all the spirited discussions on the opinion forums at *MacAddict.com*. It's good for my ego to read all the postings from readers who want to see more of me. Hey, they inspired Rik to slip me onto the Jan/05 cover—my comeback has begun!

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iPOD PHOTO

VS. THE

WORLD

There are plenty of iPod photo alternatives—if you're willing to think different.

Now that the iPod photo is here, one thing is clear: You either love it or think Apple should have started from scratch and created a full-blown media player (like we did; [MacAddict](#) Jan/05, p34). We can see why you feel one way or the other—you love it because, hey, *it's an iPod*, or you look at it and think, "The screen's kinda small," or "How do I connect my camera?" or "I! Want! Video!"

If the iPod photo doesn't float your boat, no worries—there are several portable media players to choose from. The question then remains: Are you willing to forgo the elegant,

easy-to-use status symbol that is the iPod in favor of a product better suited to storing and viewing images and videos? It's a toughie.

Here we take a look at a few top contenders and show you what each has to offer. If you're thinking of buying one, we heartily recommend that you first get your hands—and your eyeballs—on your candidate and find out what how well it displays your precious images. Also, be forewarned that none of these babies can link up with iTunes or play AAC files, including those you download from the iTunes Music Store.

—Roman Loyola

Archos Gmini400

20GB, \$399,
www.archos.com

'POD ENVY:

Slightly bigger screen (2.2 inches versus 2 inches). More colors (262K versus 65K). Built-in media reader. MPEG-4 video playback. Better games. Smaller and thinner.

DRAWBACKS: No models greater than 20GB.

VANITY QUOTIENT: 8 of 10. It lacks the iPod's elegance and doesn't have a large selection of nifty cases, but it's a sturdy, sophisticated, compact package.

THE BOTTOM LINE: The iPod photo's toughest competitor. For the complete lowdown, see *Reviews*, p44. Also check out the Archos Pocket Video Recorder AV40 ([MacAddict](#) Oct/04, p50).



iRiver H320

20GB, \$329, www.iriver.com

'POD ENVY: FM tuner. Voice recorder Line-in for recording audio. Similar size as iPod photo.

DRAWBACKS: 2-inch screen.

Windows-centric software and interface.

VANITY QUOTIENT: 7 of 10. Looks cool, and could be mistaken for a U2 iPod Special Edition (\$349, www.apple.com).

THE BOTTOM LINE: The H320 could've been a contender, but on the American version, iRiver decided to leave out USB On-The-Go, which allows direct connection to a camera for offloading photos—a feature that's also sorely missing on the iPod photo.





EPSON P-2000

40GB, \$499, www.epson.com

'POD ENVY: Huge screen (3.8 inches!). Stunning image quality. Built-in media reader. MPEG-4 video playback. Direct print with Epson printers.

DRAWBACKS: No games. Lacks iTunes support. Big and bulky.

VANITY QUOTIENT: 7 of 10. This black beauty is even more dazzling when an image is on its screen, but people might ask what's with the tricorder on your belt—unless you happen to be at a *Star Trek* convention.

THE BOTTOM LINE: A great choice for photographers to offload images from a camera. The high-quality display is great for in-the-field proofing.

PalmOne Tungsten T5

215MB, \$399, www.palmone.com

'POD ENVY: PDA functionality. Large screen. Built-in media reader. Bluetooth connectivity.

DRAWBACKS: Measly storage capacity, even with media cards.

VANITY QUOTIENT: 5 of 10. Nothing screams “anal-retentive nerd” louder than a PDA. Except maybe a Dungeons and Dragons dungeon master with a FranklinCovey day planner.

THE BOTTOM LINE: The T5 is a PDA first, a media player second. It's also an Editors' Choice award winner (see *Reviews*, p42).



RCA Lyra RD2780

20GB, \$449, www.rca.com

'POD ENVY: Big 3.5-inch screen. Built-in media reader. Video recording and playback.

DRAWBACKS: Lacks iTunes support. No models greater than 20GB.

VANITY QUOTIENT: 6 of 10. We'd like this one better if it weren't for that 70s-looking RCA logo. The screen's image quality doesn't compare to the Epson P-2000.

THE BOTTOM LINE: The Lyra's video recording ability is unique to this class of products.



CreativeZen Media Center

20GB, \$499, www.creative.com

FIRST, THE BAD NEWS: The ZMC is Windows-compatible only. Still interested? Read on. Repulsed? You're done.

'POD ENVY: Large 3.8-inch screen. Plays Windows Media Video and Photo Story files.

VANITY QUOTIENT: 4 of 10. The ZMC utilitarianism reminds us that the iPod is both pretty and practical.

THE BOTTOM LINE: iPod for Windows owners might consider the ZMC for on-the-go video. Why are you Mac users still reading this? Hoping for some witty, cutting dig at Windows?

NEW STUFF

▶ TUBE TAMER

Plextor ConvertX PVR

\$229 www.plextor.com Available: Now
Plextor's new USB 2.0-based personal video recorder uses Elgato's EyeTV software to capture TV to your Mac's hard drive, and includes time-shifting features such as fast-forward and slow motion. You can edit your video using EyeTV's simple tools or export your video to better-equipped editing apps.



Watch, pause, and record TV on your Mac.



Surround yourself with Absynth.

▶ SUPERSYNTH

Native Instruments Absynth 3

\$339 www.nativeinstruments.de

Available: Now

This popular synthesizer now supports surround sound and has an enhanced oscillator section that adds real-time fractalize mode and frequency shifting modulation. Plus, its revamped interface makes Absynth easier to use.

▶ WIFI PREVIEW Belkin Wireless Pre-N Router

\$159 www.belkin.com

Available: Now
You can get 800 percent wider coverage and 600 percent faster speed than standard 802.11g using this Pre-N router and Belkin's Pre-N card—which, unfortunately, isn't yet Mac compatible. Pre-N means this router uses specs under consideration for 802.11n wireless networking—the final specs weren't set at press time. The router is compatible with 802.11b and g.



Wider, faster WiFi? Almost.

DROOLWORTHY

Sexy Stuff We Can't Wait to Get Our Mitts On

Tote-able Terabytes ➔

WiebeTech's **RT5** (\$1,699 to \$4,699, www.wiebetech.com) holds up to five 160GB, 250GB, or 400GB hard drives, which you can configure as a RAID 0, 0+1, 3, or 5 array—with 400GB drives, we're talking a whoppin' 2 terabytes of storage connected to your Mac via FireWire 800 or USB 2.0. The RT5 is made of heavy-duty aluminum and steel, but you can carry it to your next Mac users group meeting.



IMAGE COURTESY OF WIEBETECH



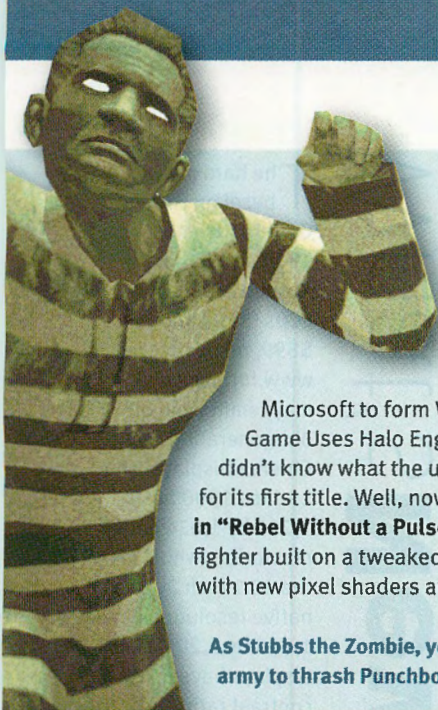
Mini Cam, Mega Display ➔

We're not quite sure why Olympus decided to label their new line of MP3 players and cameras *m:robe*, a name that brings to mind images of slippers, terry cloth, and the morning paper, rather than sleek and sexy products like the **m:robe**



500 (\$499, www.olympusamerica.com). The *m:robe* 500 rolls a 1.22-megapixel camera and a 20GB hard drive-based MP3 player into one compact, buttonless unit, and it has a huge 3.7-inch high-resolution VGA display with touch-screen controls.

IMAGE COURTESY OF OLYMPUS



SPUTUM, GUTS, FLATULENCE, AND REVENGE!

When we told you about a group of Bungie old-timers who defected from Microsoft to form Wideload Games ("Mystery Game Uses Halo Engine," Dec/04, p15), we didn't know what the upstart company had planned for its first title. Well, now we do. **Stubbs the Zombie in "Rebel Without a Pulse"** is a third-person action fighter built on a tweaked version of the Halo engine, with new pixel shaders and screen effects that fuel a

As Stubbs the Zombie, you control a zombie army to thrash Punchbowl, Pennsylvania.

cinematic film-noir feel. You stagger through a 1950s vision of the future as Stubbs, a back-from-the-dead traveling salesman with a hankering for human brains and revenge. Besides using bodily weapons like Zombie Sputum, Gut Grenades (exploding, lobbable organs), and deadly clouds of Unholy Flatulence, Stubbs's best weapons are the zombie minions he recruits (chomp, chomp) from the police, tourists, and Pennsylvania militia-member farmers, and other humans he encounters.

—Niko Coucouvanis

Stubbs the Zombie in "Rebel Without a Pulse"

Price	TBD
Available	Summer 2005
Wideload Games and Aspyr Media www.wideload.com www.aspyr.com www.stubbsthezombie.com	

FIRST LOOK AT FIRST TO FIGHT

► The Destineer crew came by to give us a hands-on preview of **Close Combat: First to Fight**, the U.S. Marine Corps-approved tactical shooter due out in February. Here are some of the highlights.

VOLUMETRIC SHADING Characters cast shadows on their own faces and bodies instead of just the lame old full-character ground shadows we get in other games.

MULTIPLAYER MODES Upon the simultaneous Mac, PC, and Xbox release, Mac and PC players will be able to meet online or on a LAN for multiplayer matches against either a human- or a computer-controlled enemy fire team.

EASY ON THE SYSTEM Best of all, we saw the game running on a 1.5GHz PowerBook with a mere 64MB of Radeon 9700 video—running smoothly at that.—NC



Close Combat: First to Fight

Price	\$45 (ESP)
Available	February 2005
Destineer Studios and MacSoft www.macsoftgames.com www.firsttofight.com	

In *Close Combat: First to Fight*, your grunts are happy to take the heat for you.



Finally, a MMORPG without all the hacking and slashing.

PUT THE BLING ON YOUR SPACE THING

► Want to join your friends in a massively multiplayer online game—only you're not interested in the swords-and-sorcery stuff? Check out **Vendetta Online**, where you pilot your spaceship across a vast universe, striving to become a rich captain of industry, decorated military hero, or successful outlaw. Free trial available.

—Matt Osborn

Vendetta Online

Price	\$29.99 retail, \$9.99 download, \$9.99 monthly fee
Available	Now
Guild Software www.vendetta-online.com	

WORLD OF WARCRAFT TIPS AND TRICKS

► World of WarCraft fans, the wait is finally over. To play this giant of a MMORPG, you don't need previous experience with the other incarnations of WarCraft, just the help of a wise old wizard—that's where we come in. Bring your own broadband connection.—MO

READ YOUR MANUAL Playing World of WarCraft is more complex than you might think.

MAKE ALLIES Make sure you choose races that are allied with your friends from the real world. The Horde is battling the Alliance for control of the world, so a human priest can't quest with an orc warrior. It wouldn't be proper.

SELECT THE RIGHT SERVER Choose your server wisely—or just ask your friends for help. When you start a character on one server, you can't move it to another. If you want to play on another server, you must start a new character. You won't lose your old character, but starting over after 30-plus hours can be a real buzz-kill.

IPOD CASE OF THE MONTH

Press releases for new iPod cases engorge *MacAddict* email boxes almost as frequently as spam, so we thought we'd inaugurate a new section to spotlight our favorite case each month. Our first winner: Apple's **iPod socks** (\$29, www.apple.com).

Socks made their debut during the iPod photo rollout back in October. When Steve Jobs introduced iPod socks, the crowd's laughter was immediately followed by whispers of, "Is he joking?" Apple representatives confirmed that socks were real—but we didn't believe it until Apple started taking orders. Socks are made of knit cotton and nylon, come in six colors, fit every iPod, and perfectly match most Old Navy outfits. To actually use your 'Pod, however, you have to take it out of the sock.—*Roman Loyola*

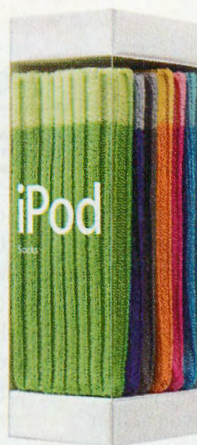


IMAGE COURTESY OF APPLE

Can we resist saying, "Sock it to me?" Apparently not.

SUBMIT YOUR CASE Whether your iPod case is a custom-made one-off or a mass-produced product, you can submit it for case-of-the-month consideration—just send it to iPod Case of the Month, *MacAddict*, 150 North Hill Drive, Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005. Please note that we cannot return cases.

BUG OF THE MONTH



SPEED UP YOUR MAC OS X STARTUP

You may experience a stall or lag in your Mac OS X startup right after you've logged in. If you have automatic login enabled, you might experience a pause right after the Mac OS X desktop comes into view, but before any icons or menu bar items appear. Here are a few tips for speeding things up:

DISABLE AUTOMOUNT If your networked volumes are set to mount at startup, disable automount and mount them manually when you need them. It takes a few seconds of extra work once your machine is up and running, but it'll shave off significant startup time.

FIX PROBLEMATIC VOLUMES A damaged FireWire or USB drive or cable can grind the startup process to a halt. If you think you have a problem with a drive, disconnect it and restart to see if your speed improves. If so, then reconnect the drive and use Apple's Disk Utility or a tool such as Alsoft's DiskWarrior (\$79.95, www.alfsoft.com) to fix the drive. If you suspect a bad cable is the culprit, try a different one.

CACHE OUT Use a utility such as Panther Cache Cleaner (\$8.95, www.northernsoftworks.com) to perform deletion of system caches. Also check out Mark Douma's Font Finagler (\$10, <http://homepage.mac.com/mdouma46/fontfinagler>), which purges font-cache files that can stall your startup.

TRY THE UPDATER AGAIN The tried-and-true method of reapplying the most recent Mac OS X *combo* updater once again proves its worthiness in the case of slow startups. The combo updates are larger files that take longer to download, but can eliminate mishaps caused by *delta* (release-to-release) updates. Many users have found that downloading and installing the larger file can lessen startup time. You'll find the update packages at Apple's Mac OS X download page (www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/apple).

What's New

DISPLAY & PROJECTORS



Our mascot, Max, achieves nirvana on LaCie's pivoting LCD.

The hard plastic bezel on Formac's **Gallery Xtreme 1900** and **Gallery Xtreme 2010** TFT LCDs (\$599 and \$899, respectively; www.formac.com) may remind you of old-generation Apple Cinema Displays. The 19-inch 1900 has a 1,280 by 1,024 native resolution, while the 20.1-inch 2010's native resolution is 1,600 by 1,200. Both displays have a 700:1 contrast ratio and Formac's zero-dead-pixel guarantee.

LaCie's **321 LCD Monitor** (\$1,699, www.lacie.com) is a 21.3-inch TFT panel with 10-bit gamma correction instead of the traditional 8-bit. The 321 has a contrast ratio of 500:1 and a native resolution of 1,600 by 1,200 pixels, and pivots to portrait

mode if you have an ATI Radeon 9800 Pro graphics card. Samsung unveiled the **SyncMaster 711T** (\$599, www.samsung.com), a 17-inch LCD monitor with a 1000:1 contrast ratio, 1,280 by 1,024 native resolution, and 0.6-inch bezel.

Eizo Nanao released a pair of displays, the **ColorEdge CG220** and **ColorEdge CG19** (\$6,499 and \$1,859, respectively; www.eizo.com). The CG220 has a 22.2-inch screen with a 1,920 by 1,200 native resolution, and supports Adobe's RGB color space. The 19-inch CG19 is bundled with Eizo's Color Navigator calibration package, and has a 1,280 by 1,024 native resolution and 450:1 contrast ratio.

PhotoVu's **PV1940** (\$1,299, www.photovu.com) is a 19-inch WiFi digital picture frame that you can hang on a wall to display digital photos and illustrations at 1,280 by 960 pixels. A PV1940 is available with an external power supply (\$1,399) or a 40GB removable hard drive (\$1,549).—*Roman Loyola*

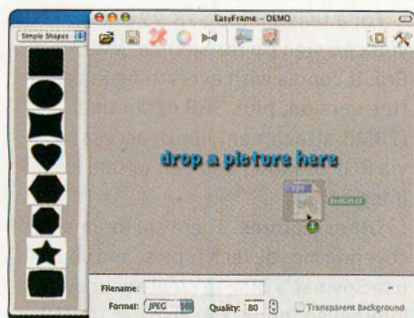
SHAREWARE PICK OF THE MONTH

EasyFrame www.yellowmug.com \$15



The world might be a better place without borders, but when it comes to pictures, Web pages, postcards, and newsletters,

borders add creative flair and personality. Here's how to use Yellow Mug Software's EasyFrame to frame a photo.—*Andrew Tokuda*



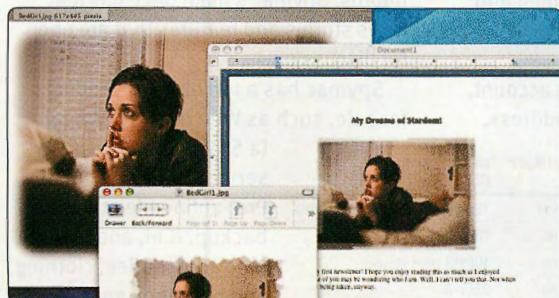
1 Drag any picture into the Drop A Picture Here window.



2 From the Simple Shapes pop-up menu, choose a frame set you like.



3 Click any frame shape to see a preview of that border around your photo.



4 When you find a border you like, drag the picture with its new border onto your desktop or a folder to save it.



5 To create a custom frame, open Photoshop (or comparable app), use your art skills to create a cool 8-bit grayscale image or 32-bit RGB image with an alpha channel (transparency). When finished, drag it into the My Frames list.

AUDION: ANOTHER iTUNES VICTIM

Panic's Audion (free, www.panic.com) has changed from commercial app to freeware. In its heyday, Audion was the premier Mac MP3 player, but it lost popularity after Apple released iTunes, which is based on Audion's former competitor, Casady & Greene's SoundJam.

Panic cofounder Cabel Sasser has a history of Audion posted on Panic's Web site (www.panic.com/extras/audionstory). According to Sasser, Apple once considered using Audion as the basis for iTunes. During initial discussions, however, Panic was working on a deal with America Online—a deal that didn't pan out. In the meantime, Apple decided to use SoundJam instead. The rest, as they say, is history. Panic continues to develop software such as CandyBar 2 (\$12.95), an icon utility; Unison (\$24.95), a Usenet client; and Transmit (\$24.95), an FTP client.

There's more! Sasser's tale is void of car chases and life-or-death situations, but it provides insight into the inner workings of Apple and life as a Mac third-party developer. Sasser's account of a meeting with Apple bigwigs—including Steve Jobs—is especially worth a read.

—*Roman Loyola*



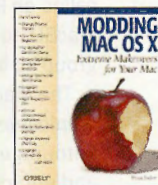
Book Review

MODDING MAC OS X

Mention *mod* when referring to your Mac, and your Pavlovian reflex is to fire up your dremel tool. But O'Reilly Media's new *Modding Mac OS X* (2004; \$24.95, www.oreilly.com) is all about the OS—specifically, the interface and the command line.

Author Erica Sadun's hacks include basics like creating your own custom desktops, as well as more-complex mods that help you make

better use of the Terminal and the Property List Editor. Each mod has step-by-step instructions and screenshots to make modding easier.—*Roman Loyola*



Go Mac mod mad!

MAC INTERNET SERVICES

Apple's .Mac (www.mac.com) offers convenience and ease of use, while at the same time maximizing the Internet as a resource. But did you know that you have a choice? Spymac (www.spymac.com) offers many of the same features as .Mac, either for less cash than .Mac—or free entirely. While we had no problems using either service, it's always a good idea to check out message boards and do your research before deciding on one or the other.

.MAC An \$99 annual membership gets you a *name@mac.com* email address with 250MB of storage—125MB is set by default for mail, while you can allocate the other 125MB between your mail and your iDisk account (more on iDisk later).

.Mac is easy to use and the icons for your functions are clearly labeled. You

can also keep an address book and use iSync to manage the records between your online book and the Apple Address Book in your Mac. Our syncs went without a hitch.

Other features. The iDisk feature allows you to store files online, so you can access them from any place you can connect to the Internet. If you want to share your latest iMovie creation with friends and family and it's too big to attach to an email message, for example, you can share the file publicly via your iDisk. You can also use iDisk to host Web pages that have the URL <http://homepage.mac.com/user name>.

Other features include virus scanning; an e-greeting card service called iCards; Backup 2 backup software; forums; and special shopping deals.

SPYMAC With a free Spymac account, you get a *name@spymac.com* address,

1GB of email storage (10MB attachment limit), spam and virus scanning, and a spelling checker. A free account doesn't include POP email access to other accounts.

For a reasonable \$18.99 per year, you can sign up for Spymac Mail Pro. It comes with everything in the free version, plus 3GB of storage (20MB attachment limit), access via POP or IMAP, and cell-phone integration.

Other features. There are forums covering mostly tech topics, and you can use Spymac's blog to create your own Internet soapbox. You also get 100MB for a Web site. Spymac has a Picture Gallery where you can store and share photos. Spymac's main page has Mac news stories and features that are open for discussion.

Spymac has a ton of other products for sale, such as Web hosting, Wheel

(a \$39.99 per year service that offers Mail Pro, online file storage, backup, iCal, and a blog), Mac accessories, clothing, and notebook gear.

—Roman Loyola

SERVICE	URL	ANNUAL FEE	EMAIL CAPACITY	ATTACHMENT LIMITS	ADDRESS BOOK	ICAL HOSTING	ALIASES	WEB SITE SPACE FILE STORAGE
.MAC	www.mac.com	\$99.95	125MB	10MB	yes	yes	yes	125MB (can allocate space to mail)
SPYMAC	www.spymac.com	free	1GB	10MB	yes*	yes	no	100MB (Web site only)
SPYMAC MAIL PRO	www.spymac.com/mailpro	\$18.99	3GB	20MB	yes*	yes	no	100MB (Web site only)
SPYMAC WHEEL	www.spymac.com/wheel	\$39.99	3GB	20MB	yes*	yes	no	250MB

* Doesn't sync with Apple's Address Book.

MICROSOFT'S MACBU SPEAKS

With two big software releases this year, it's apparent that the folks at Microsoft's Mac Business Unit (MacBU) have been busy. Virtual PC (see *Reviews*, p37) got a speed bump, and Office 2004 is flush with innovative new tools. We called on Roz Ho, general manager of MacBU, to give us some insight about the group's philosophy and where it's headed.

The MacBU now harbors nearly 200 employees, with new staff focused on Entourage-related enterprise integration and upping overall product quality. In fact, when talking with Ho, the words "research," "testing," and "retesting" came up again and again. Ho marks improved product quality as her biggest accomplishment; Office support calls were down by half in the four to five months following the release of version 2004. That version's error-reporting dialog provided info that helped the MacBU to develop Service Pack 1, which

fixed common errors—and another Service Pack is in the works.

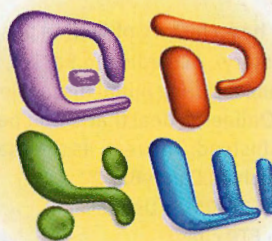
But the bigger picture is also under constant examination. Once 2004 shipped, Ho asked her staff to take a three to four month breather to "rethink engineering" for the long term, and to work toward integrating new features from the ground up rather than just tacking them onto existing products.

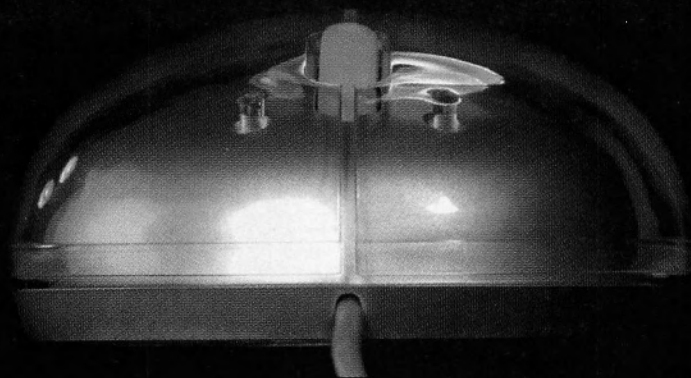
Ho remarks that these are "exciting times for Mac customers," with Apple continually improving its operating system. She says, "The pace of innovation is the best thing." So if the MacBU matches pace, what's up next? The group's ongoing—and painstaking—customer research efforts have revealed that for 92 percent of customers, PC

compatibility is the most important thing. To this end, MacBU worked with its PC neighbors to completely rewrite the animation in Office 2004's PowerPoint for improved timing and better looks.

With new graphics capabilities built into Mac OS 10.4 (Tiger), future versions will be poised to take advantage of the increased power. Ho says another market trend is the need for teams to collaborate, and for users to organize and track information—Office 2004's fledgling Project Center is a solid start in this direction. As for expanding the Microsoft Office Suite, Ho sees instant messaging infiltrating the corporate environment, and an overall move toward better integration with the Internet and between platforms.

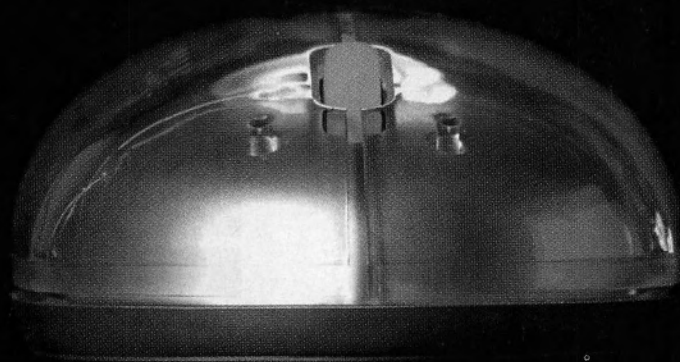
—Jenifer Morgan





Wired.

The Mouse USB scroll mouse.



Wireless.

The Mouse BT Bluetooth
wireless mouse.

Decisions, decisions.

www.macmice.com



iPod SUPER POWERS



Apple's digital audio player can do more than carry a tune—we show you how to infuse your iPod with superpowers that'll transform it into an all-in-one wonder.

BY KRIS FONG

Like a superhero, your iPod has the power to lead a secret double life. One minute it's a mild-mannered music player; the next, it magically transforms itself into a personal digital assistant, current events informer, flashlight, foreign language translator, party planner, or even an eBook. For mere chump change (or for free!), you can bestow these superpowers and more on your iPod. We rounded up the greatest iPod apps out there, stuff that'll make

your favorite music player truly indispensable. We also show you some cool hardware add-ons that outfit your iPod with totally new functions.

Whether your iPod masquerades as a white knight or a colorful mini, you can give it the power to be different and lead whatever multiple lives your heart desires. And even if you don't have an iPod, some of these apps will happily provide the same functions on your Mac.

Hidden Powers

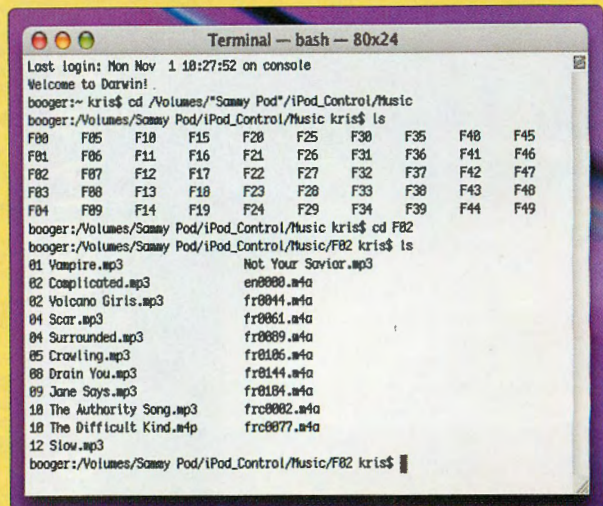
So where does the iPod get its superpowers?

Like Underdog diving into a phone booth, the iPod makes its transformations mainly via its Notes folder—as long as it's running version 2.0 or later of iPod Software. If you've never looked at your iPod when it's mounted on your desktop as a hard drive, the Notes folder lies at the root of the mounted iPod, along with Contacts, Calendars, and other folders. (Your music is stored in a series of folders with F-number names—see right—within an

invisible Music folder inside another invisible folder called iPod_Control. You can access files via the Terminal by typing `cd /Volumes/"your iPod's name"/iPod_Control/Music`, and then navigating into the various folders.) On first- and second-generation iPods, some iPod applications can function within your iPod's Contacts folder—see each app's documents for specifics.

To grant your iPod extra features, some apps require that you

install their mild-mannered selves in your Mac's Applications folder and let them unleash their superpowers onto your iPod, while others simply ask that you stash their superhero-catalyst selves into the Notes folder; again, read the documentation for specifics. And with that info in mind, read on to discover the double (or triple, or octuple) lives your iPod can lead.



Use the Terminal's X-ray vision to scope out your iPod's tunes.

The Informer

THE CATALYST: Pod2Go

THE SUPERPOWER: Quickly and discreetly culls the latest news, unread email messages, driving directions, stock quotes, weather forecasts, and more for on-the-go types.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Kanjow Software (www.kanjow.com/pod2go)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: \$12 for total, portable, informed bliss

THE TERMS: Mac OS 10.2.7 or later, Safari, any iPod, iPod Software 1.3 or later

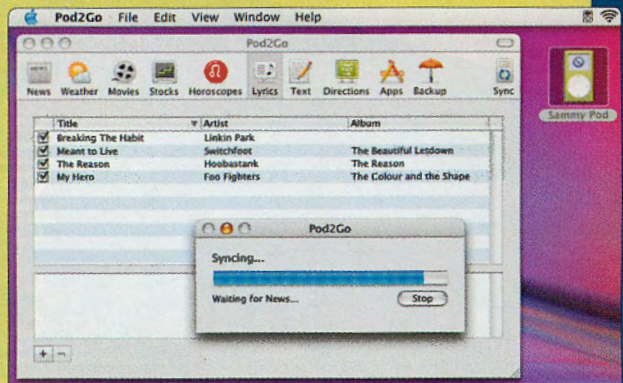
The Internet may be your bastion of current event information, but when you're away from your desktop, what do you do? Fervently channel-surf the boob tube to find info? Blacken your fingertips rifling through your local paper? Consult the Yellow Pages to call various places and people for movie times, driving directions, weather forecasts, and more?

Forget that.

Turn to your iPod instead. **Pod2Go** gives your iPod the power to retrieve RSS news headlines; manage and display your contacts, schedules, email, and notes from Apple's apps; give you driving directions to wherever you may roam; provide the weather for practically any city in the world; show you the latest movie showtimes for your local theaters; grab the latest stock quotes; feed you your horoscope; display your text documents; back up your data; and even download lyrics for your favorite iPod-

stocked songs so you don't misquote lyrics during your sing-alongs ("scuse me while I kiss this guy").

Out of all our picks, **Pod2Go** is the superest of all superpower apps, offering almost all the à la carte features the others have in one hearty, great-performing package. The app, which resembles Sherlock, runs on your Mac and lets you pick and choose what information and sources you want to download to your iPod's Notes folder. Anytime you want to update your iPod with the latest info, just plug it into your Mac. **Pod2Go** would be a definite Editor's Choice if we gave that award to shareware apps.



If we had to choose a single iPod superpower, **Pod2Go** would be the one—it offers everything and the kitchen sink, including lyrics so that we can sing along with our tunes.

Foreign Language Translator

THE CATALYST: iLingo

THE SUPERPOWER: Transforms English-speaking mortals into multilingual communicators.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Talking Panda (www.talkingpanda.com)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: \$14.95 per language translator or \$39.95 to house a European polyglot

THE TERMS: Mac OS 10.2 or later, iTunes 4.1 or later, any iPod with a dock connector, iPod Software 2.0 or later

What kind of secret agent—or happy traveler—would be caught in a foreign country without any means of communication, whether you get assistance from a travel guide, a phrase book, or an interpreter? If you take along your iPod and **iLingo**, it won't be you. **iLingo** transforms any dockable iPod into a compact language translator that'll help you communicate with the locals, as long as they reside in a country that speaks one of the four included tongues.

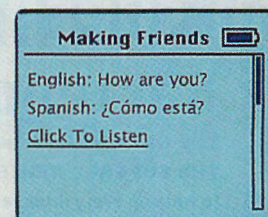
Talking Panda offers four language modules—French, German, Spanish, and Italian—that, when installed on an iPod, provide common words and phrases for travelers (you can have only one language installed at a time—which, admittedly, is a pain). The program separates all phrases and words into various categories and subcategories on your 'Pod—Simple Terms, Greetings, Getting Around, Dining, Making Friends, Time, Numbers & Money, Local Lingo, and more. Each entry provides the English

Can't figure out how to say a word? Just click your iPod's select button, and **iLingo** speaks the word or phrase.

word or phrase, its translation, and a helpful one-click spoken translation so you can make

sure that you get pronunciation down pat—and avoid the embarrassment of uttering "Je t'aime" (I'm in love with you) when you really meant to say "J'ai faim" (I'm hungry).

One important thing to note: **iLingo** hogs your iPod's Notes folder, moving all existing content into a Notes Backup folder. That means you won't be able to access any other Notes-based item as long as you have an **iLingo** module installed—you must manually switcheroo **iLingo** to the Notes Backup folder and your Backup stuff to the Notes folder to access everything again. Still, if you're on vacation, why the heck are you reading email messages or calling contacts back at home anyway?



Personal Assistant

THE CATALYST: iPod It

THE SUPERPOWER: Dutifully organizes contacts, schedules, email messages, tasks, news, and more.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Zapptek (www.zapptek.com)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: \$14.95 for peace of (organized) mind

THE TERMS: Mac OS 10.2 or later, any iPod

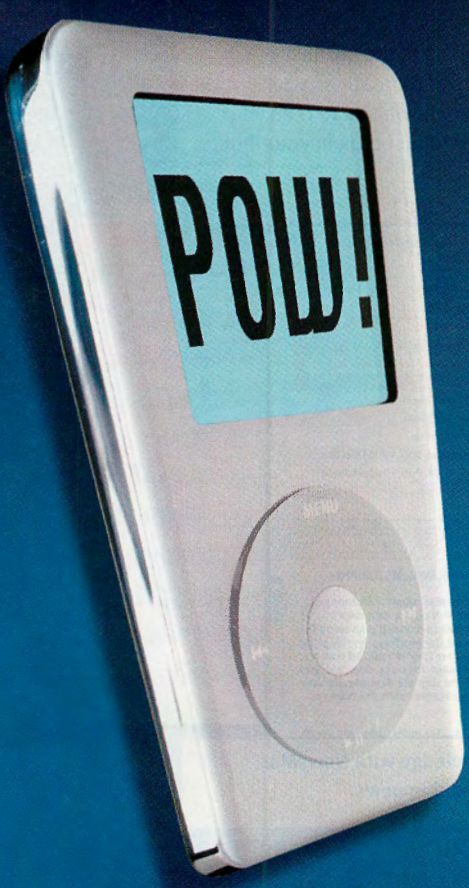
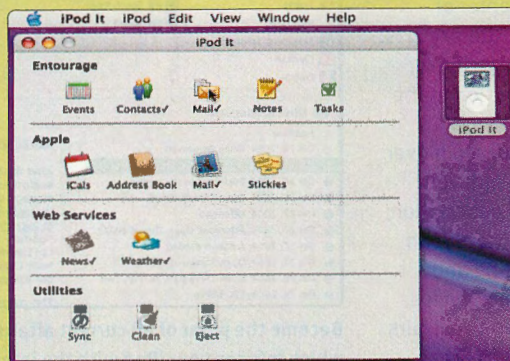
PDAs are expensive. Filofaxes are so '90s. And Post-Its have a tendency to hitch a ride on somebody and walk out the door. Thank goodness Apple built Mail and iCal syncing capabilities into the iPod, transforming it into a kind of PDA-light device when you need to look up numbers or appointment times. But **iPod It** goes a big step further by giving Microsoft Office users something to crow about: Entourage support.

For Office users, **iPod It** allows you to sync your Entourage contacts, email, events, notes, and tasks between your Mac and your iPod. The app lets you decide how much information you want to take with you—you can choose to take only your unread email messages, fetch everything in your Inbox, or even download your entire message collection, if you so desire. Or you can choose to sync all of your contacts, just your business peeps, or only your friends and whatnot.

If you avoid Microsoft apps like the plague, **iPod It** can also sync data from Apple apps, including Address Book, Mail, iCal, and Stickies. It can also feed your 'Pod the weather forecast (just tell it what city or cities you're interested in) and the latest news, including the top stories, sports, world news, entertainment, and a few other categories. You don't get to choose what outlets these feeds come from, but you can

opt to get the full story instead of just the headline and synopsis (though getting the full-story download to work right can be hit-and-miss).

If you're a scatterbrained, on-the-go type, **iPod It** can help you stay on top of things by letting you take your Entourage and Apple app stuff anywhere you go.



iPOD SUPERPOWERS

Bartender

THE CATALYST: Podtender

THE SUPERPOWER: Grants the intoxicating ability to whip up every drink recipe imaginable.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Enrique Quintero Design (www.enriquequinterodesign.com)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: A measly \$5 to become the life of the party

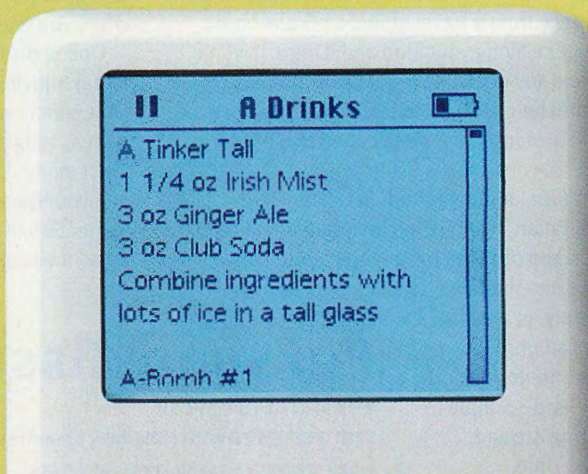
THE TERMS: Mac OS 10.2 or later, any iPod (first and second generations require alternate installation—see site for details), iPod Software 2.0 or later (for dock-bearing iPods)

Dale Carnegie didn't have this little app around when he wrote *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, but **Podtender** will give you the superpowers that can steer you toward the same goals. This fun database contains a sobering number of mixed-drink recipes—over 900 of them at your fingertips—that can make you the life of the party as you mix and serve every partygoer's alcoholic fantasy on the fly (assuming you have a liquor cabinet the size of The Donald's bank account...or hair).

Just stash the **Podtender** package in your iPod's Notes folder, hide your 'Pod discreetly, and pull a little cheat-sheet maneuver as you let the spirits fly. Drinks are arranged alphabetically, so if someone asks you for "something with a little rum in it," you'll need to pull your best Jedi mind trick to get him or her to utter an actual drink name, lest you expose your secret. Some of the fun comes from just reading the drink names. Who knew that you could order an Extra Nutty Irishman,

a Screaming Orgasm, or a Woo Woo #2? Probably not with a straight face. Just be prepared for a lot of 'Pod-wheel scrolling.

For the hidden lush in all of us, Podtender will have you making friends fast with fast friends.



News Anchor

THE CATALYST: NewsMac

THE SUPERPOWER: Fills the human cranium with the latest news and current events in a single swoop.

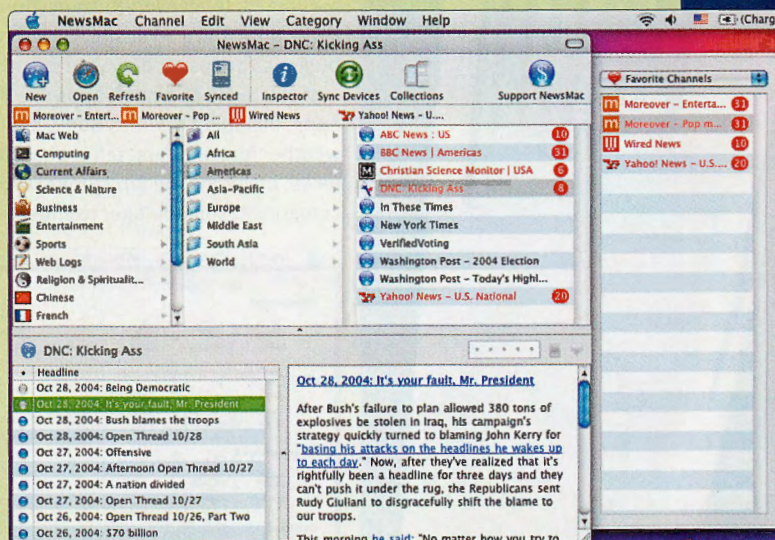
WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: ThinkMac Software (www.thinkmac.co.uk)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: Just like your local TV news, absolutely nothing (though donations are appreciated)

THE TERMS: Mac OS 10.2.x, 10.3, or later; any iPod with a dock connector; iPod Software 2.0 or later. Gain the combined daily knowledge of Tom Brokaw, Christiane Amanpour, Al Michaels, Walt Mossberg, Mary Hart, Dave Marsh, and countless other broadcasters and journalists, without having to do endless research. **NewsMac** transforms your iPod into a nerve center of current events, world news, sports, literary arts, Mac news, entertainment, business, science, technology, and other cultural goings-on at the press of a button.

NewsMac supplies RSS news feeds from over 120 different sources (you can also add your own), and aggregates headline and description content on your Mac that you can click to read the full story. Or you can sync headline and description content to an iPod or Palm device, and take Cliff's Notes versions of current affairs with you. Do be aware that your mileage may

vary. We experienced some inconsistent results with various feeds—some feeds would just give us simple headlines on our iPod, while others would give us the headlines plus a healthy synopsis of the stories. But rather than carpal-tunnel yourself to death as you exhaustively click through every news site to feed your thirst for knowledge, it's easier to just plug in your iPod and have **NewsMac** feed you.



Become the pillar of all current affairs knowledge with NewsMac, which infuses your iPod with the latest breaking news.

The Diva

THE CATALYST: KaraTunes

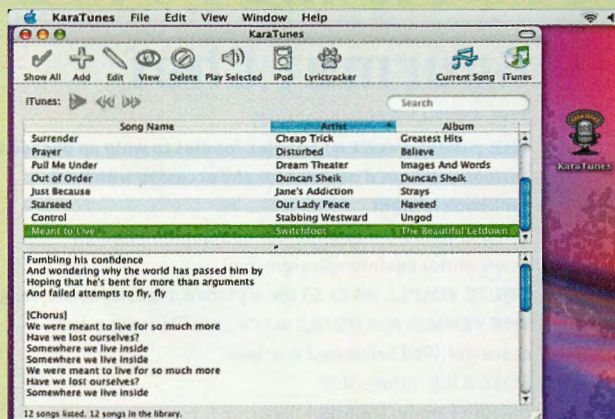
THE SUPERPOWER: Turns everyday people into word-accurate singers (and we use that last word loosely).

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Ideographer (www.ideographer.com)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: \$11 for not having to loddly-dada-doo-dobbie through your favorite tunes (unless you're singing Red Hot Chili Peppers songs)

THE TERMS: Mac OS 10.2.8 or later, iTunes, any iPod with a dock connector, iPod Software 2.0 or later

You sing along to songs in your car and in the shower; why not serenade your iPod? **KaraTunes** turns your iPod into a pseudo karaoke machine that can display lyrics for every single stored song as it plays. The app integrates well with iTunes, allowing you to simply select any song in your iTunes Library or on your connected iPod, download song lyrics lickety-split at the click of a button (it grabs them from Lyrictracker.com), and save them to **KaraTunes'** lyrics library. If the app can't find the lyrics, you can click the Google button to search the entire Web for your wanted words. If you're a musician or GarageBander, you can even create entries for your own tunes, then just click the iPod icon to load your lyrics onto your 'Pod.



KaraTunes organizes your lyrics much as iTunes manages your music, and lets you display them on an iPod for anytime-anywhere sing-alongs.

This has to be the fastest and easiest method we've seen so far for collecting lyrics—you can literally grab and save them in seconds. Just remember: Belting out songs while your iPod's earbuds are still in your ears could be hazardous to bystanders' eardrums—and patience.

More Superpower Options

As with everything in life, you have options. In case our choices don't float your rubber ducky, here are more power-ups to fuel your iPod's double life.

BACKSEAT DRIVER: Mibasoft PodQuest (\$9.95, www.mibasoft.dk)—Puts MapQuest or MapBlast driving directions on your iPod.

BODY GUARD: Pariahware Pod Secret (\$29.95, www.pariahware.com)—Securely encrypts sensitive data when you carry it on an iPod or thumb drive.

CLONER: Findley Designs iPod Access (\$10, www.drewfindley.com/findleydesigns), Sci-Fi Hi-Fi PodWorks (\$8, www.scifihifi.com), Robs iPod Exporter (free, www.robsmac.com), Bitcom Xpod (free, www.bitcom.ch)—Copy your music files and metadata from your iPod to your Mac.

MAIL CARRIER: PodMail (free, www.podmail.org)—Sync your iPod with your email account and take your messages with you.

MOVER: Ronin no Sakurakai Softronics youPod (\$14.99, www.kaisakura.com)—Use your iPod to move one Mac's info (Address Book, iCal, bookmarks, Keychain, music) to another Mac to keep them in sync.

RADIO-SHOW HOST: iPodder (free, <http://ipodder.sourceforge.net>)—Turns your iPod into an Internet radio device by grabbing prerecorded radio-show content to which you've subscribed and dropping it onto your 'Pod.

INSURANCE AGENT: iPodBackup (free, <http://homepage.mac.com/amake/software/ipodbackup.html>)—Backs up your Home folder's data onto an iPod.

SECRETARY: MacChampion Alepin (\$10, www.macchampion.com), VoJou Software iNotePad (\$14, www.vojousoftware.com), THHdesign Podtext X (free, www.mysunrise.ch/users/thhdesign/more.html), Flying Meat Software VoodooPad (\$19.95, free Lite version, www.flyingmeat.com)—Apple NotePad alternatives let you create detailed notes and store them on an iPod.

STORYTELLER: Zaptek iSpeak It (\$12.95, www.zaptek.com), Alex King's Read it to Me (free, www.alexking.org)—Reads any text document (email messages, news, eBooks, and more) out loud by converting text to audio.



IPOD SUPERPOWERS

Gourmet Chef

THE CATALYST: PodGourmet

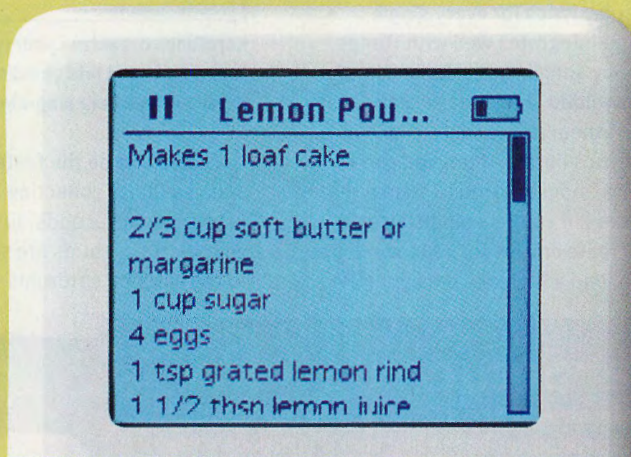
THE SUPERPOWER: Enables foodies to whip up decadent entrées and hors d'oeuvres for any occasion without a cookbook in sight.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Enrique Quintero Design (www.enriquequinterodesign.com)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: \$5 for a garden of gastronomic delights

THE TERMS: Mac OS 10.2 or later, any iPod with a dock connector, iPod Software 2.0 or later

Make a big impression on your family, friends, and present or future in-laws by showing them that not only can you cook (or at least make the effort), but also your gastronomical mastery doesn't even require you to crack a cookbook. **PodGourmet** puts 260 recipes on your iPod, allowing you to whip up a batch of Crêpes à l'Orange and (falsely) claim that it's your own secret recipe.



The app separates recipes into categories, including Beef and Veal, Cakes, Desserts, Fish and Shellfish, Pastries, Pork, Poultry, Salads, Soups, and Vegetables. Each category lists tons of enticing entries such as Crab in Shrimp Sauce, Double Chocolate Cake, and Orange Glazed Capons, and oddities such as Coleslaw Tartare, Chicken Sea Pie, and Pepperoni Salad. Along with down-home Americana cooking, **PodGourmet** offers different national cuisines, including Italian, French, Chinese, Spanish, Cajun, and Mexican recipes. It's good enough to make you wanna shout "Bam!" Do note that if you have

an iPod mini, some of the recipe names may appear cut off due to the screen's smaller size (Ham Stuffed Cab... or Crusty Cold Chick..., anyone?), but you'll get the gist of what it is if you read the ingredients (or take a peek at the text docs on your Mac).

What's cookin'? You are if you have **PodGourmet** installed on your iPod.

Librarian

THE CATALYST: Book2Pod

THE SUPERPOWER: Turns iPods into electronic books.

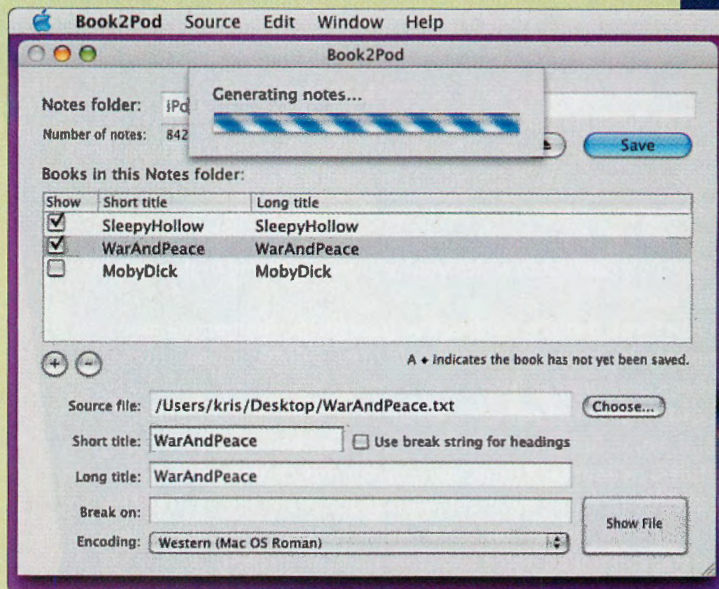
WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Tom Sutcliffe (www.tomsci.com/book2pod)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: Nothing, just like a public library

THE TERMS: Mac OS 10.3 or later, any iPod with a dock connector, iPod Software 2.0 or later
Whether you're a forward-thinking bookworm or a person of the save-a-tree ilk, electronic books (aka eBooks) offer the same story content as regular books without the burden of lugging the volumes. **Book2Pod** enables you to carry around multiple books in your iPod. The app works around the iPod Note Reader's 4Kb limit per note by splitting a text document into multiple segments, allowing you to read a book, your term paper, or any other long plain-text document on your iPod. If you're into classic literary works, you can download free eBooks from Project Gutenberg (www.gutenberg.net), and pack 'em on your iPod.

To make an eBook or lengthy text doc iPod-compatible, just connect your iPod, fire up **Book2Pod**, click the plus-sign (+) button to add the plain-text (TXT) doc to the interface, and click Save. The app then splits the book into multiple linked notes and

places them in your iPod's Notes folder for your reading enjoyment. Do note that the iPod has a 1,000-note limit; after bestowing batches of various app power-ups and two books on our iPod, we didn't have enough room to hold *Moby Dick* as well.



Bookworms—get around the iPod's 4Kb note limit. Book2Pod lets you read eBooks, your college thesis, or any other long-winded doc on your iPod.

The Dictator

THE CATALYST: Text Reader

THE SUPERPOWER: Gives your iPod notes a voice.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: CodePoetry (www.codepoetry.net/projects/textreader)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: As for freedom of speech, nothing

THE TERMS: Mac OS 10.2 or later, iTunes 3 or later, any iPod

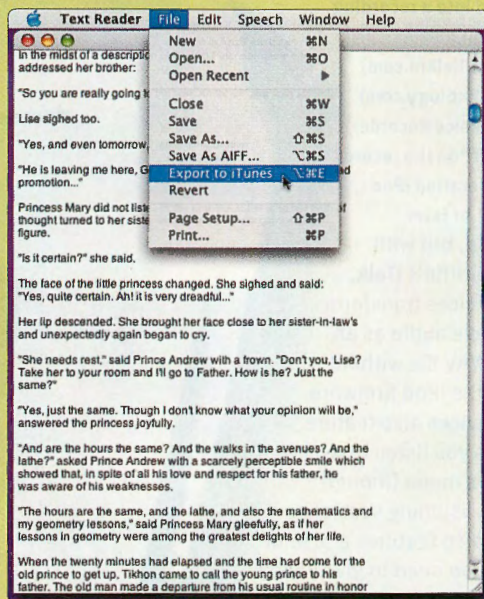
If you're the type who's constantly on the go, parking your butt in one place for any length of time becomes a luxury. Most likely, it'll be when you're driving from place to place. While you can take your email messages, headline news, and reading materials with you on your iPod, the car is *not* the place to play catch-up—your eyes should be on the road and your hands on the wheel. However, it is a great time to *hear* your email messages, schedule, to-dos, and whatnot read out loud. **Text Reader** can do just that.

Just drop any plain-text file onto

the **Text Reader** icon and select File > Save As AIFF to convert text to spoken-word audio. Or select File > Export To iTunes; from there, convert the file to AAC or MP3 format and load it on your iPod as you would any audio file. If you've got eBooks, this is a great way to turn them into audiobooks—if you can stomach listening to your

Mac's monotone synthesized voice pondering whether it shall compare thee to a summer's day. Use your Mac's Speech system preferences to change your Mac's default voice (**Text Reader** also lets you control the pitch and speed of the voice). Do note that the conversion process can take quite a long time and the resulting AIFF file can swell to gigantic proportions—especially if you're converting eBooks.

With Text Reader, you can listen to Leo Tolstoy's epic *War and Peace* right on your iPod—if you don't mind the machinelike delivery.



Superhero Add-Ons

Software isn't the only catalyst that'll unleash your iPod's superpowers. You can strap one of these hardware devices onto your iPod's armor and transform it into a completely new weapon.

Weapon of Mass Instruction

THE WEAPON: iBeam

THE SUPERPOWER: Transforms your iPod into a lecture-friendly laser pointer (or flashlight).

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Griffin Technology (www.griffintechology.com)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: \$19.99 for enlightenment

THE TERMS: Any iPod with a dock connector

The laser pointer: Lecture-hall professors love them; moviegoers want to wring the skinny necks of those who wield them inappropriately and excessively. Now you can instantly transform any dock-bearing iPod into the host of an impromptu laser-light

The iBeam turns the iPod into the brightest audio player of the bunch—literally.

show. The **iBeam** is actually a set of two small devices that attach (one at a time) to a iPod's minijack—one delivers a red laser beam, while the other casts a small white flashlight beam so you can avoid becoming the thing that goes bump in the night. The bits also ship with caps that you can attach to your keychain (the one for your house and car keys, not your Mac's), so you always have them handy.



iPOD SUPERPOWERS

Wire Tap

THE WEAPON: Voice Recorder for iPod, iTalk

THE SUPERPOWER: Turns your iPod into a recording device.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Belkin (www.belkin.com) and Griffin Technology (www.griffintechology.com)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: \$34.99 (Belkin Voice Recorder) or \$39.99 (Griffin iTalk) for getting stuff "on the record"

THE TERMS: Any third- or fourth-generation iPod except the iPod mini, iPod Firmware 2.1 or later

We all know the iPod can play sound, but with Belkin's **Voice Recorder for iPod** or Griffin's **iTalk**, the iPod can capture it too. Both devices transform an iPod into a voice recorder and save audio as an iPod-specified 8kHz, 16-bit mono WAV file without requiring any additional software (the iPod firmware supports audio recording). Both devices also feature a built-in 16mm speaker, which lets you listen to what you just recorded and functions as a mono (though tinny-sounding) speaker for shared listening sessions. If you prefer a better mic, the **iTalk** also features a 3.5mm mono external mic input. Whether you need to give yourself daily reminders, want the coolest lecture-recording device in your class, or have ulterior motives for gathering secret recordings, both devices will transform your 'Pod into the perfect record-keeper.



Forget clunky cassette recorders; the Voice Recorder (below) and the iTalk (above) turn iPods into sound-capture devices.



Photo Vault

THE WEAPON: Digital Camera Link for iPod, Media Reader for iPod

THE SUPERPOWER: Pulls photographic data from either a camera or a media card.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Belkin
(www.belkin.com)

PRICE YOU'LL PAY: \$79.99 (Digital Camera Link) or \$99.99 (Media Reader) to never have to lug your 'Book to weeklong photo shoots or on vacation

THE TERMS: Any third-generation iPod except iPod mini (fourth-generation support for Digital Camera Link coming soon), iPod Firmware 2.1 or later, supported camera or media

Unless you have loads of high-capacity media cards, chances are you review photos on your camera and erase lots just to make room for more while you're on vacation. With either of Belkin's image-storing devices, now you don't have to. Both the **Digital Camera Link** and the **Media Reader for iPod** transform the iPod into a virtual storage shoebox for all of your digital photos, freeing up your media cards for more snap-happy adventures. The **Camera Link** allows you to tether your USB camera to your iPod and upload images at the push of a button. The **Media Reader** supports Compact Flash (Type I and II), Smart Media, Secure Digital, MultiMediaCard, or Memory Stick media, allowing fast transfers via FireWire. Both devices operate on batteries so you can transfer your images to—though not view them on—your iPod anywhere in the world.



Belkin's Media Reader for iPod (above) and Digital Camera Link (left) imaging devices free photographers from lugging around a 'Book or buying extra media cards.

Forget Music—Play Games

Be a bum one day and a secret agent the next: Worlds of (text-based) adventure await!

Practically anyone with some basic HTML knowledge can create his or her own iPod text game. Home-brewed iPod games are starting to trickle in, though this market is still a young one, on the brink of breaking out into the mainstream. iPod Software 2.0 (and later) features **Note Reader** software to display text files on an iPod's screen, but the software also supports some HTML tags, including Absolute and Relative links that allow you to organize notes into a hierarchy and link them together—making your iPod the perfect platform for creating text games.

These types of games generally offer a story where the player chooses what he or she wants to do in various predicaments; these choices alter the plotline. If you're looking to play, you'll find various iPod games from iPod game developers **XO Play** (\$14.99 per game, www.xoplay.com) and from the iPod-toting masses who host their ventures on iPodSoft (most games are free, www.ipodsoft.com).

If light HTML coding is more than you can handle, iPodSoft's **iStory Creator** (price TBA, www.ipodsoft.com) allows anyone to create iPod text games without code—but as of press time, you need a peecee to use it. Don't worry, though: A Mac version, **iStory Creator X**, is coming soon.



Kris Fong's iPod is so jacked up on superpowers that it became invisible—she knows it's around...somewhere.

MEET YOUR DOOM 3

Doom is back, and it's more terrifying than ever.
Can you handle it? Can your Mac?

by Niko Coucouvanis

DOOM 3

Price: \$49.99

Available: February 2005

Developer: id Software
(www.idsoftware.com)

Publisher: Aspyr Media
(www.aspyr.com)



A research facility on Mars, a nameless space marine with no past (nor much of a future), and an endless supply of zombie-demon hell spawn: What more could you ask for in a computer game? When id Software released the original Doom for Macs in 1995 (PC users got it in 1993), most of us were still playing flat, arcade-style games like Tetris and Centipede. Doom immersed us in the intricately designed, completely creepy 3D environment of a remote space outpost, where it ambushed us with hellish monsters and frenzied first-person shooting action. Doom was an instant hit and gave us our first taste of the networked multiplayer deathmatch-type games, thus securing Doom's place in gaming history (and that of its creator—see “Developer Q&A,” p35).



Now id's flagship game is coming back with a vengeance—and a brand-new 3D engine—in Doom 3. The basic story hasn't changed much, but the new rendering capabilities add effects, such as real-time lighting and shadows, that make the dynamic and creepy world of Doom even more hellish. Before you get too excited, know that Doom 3's system requirements start with a 1.5GHz G5 (see "Is Your Mac Ready?" p35). However, after extensive research on a gamer friend's beefy PC, we expect Doom 3 to look absolutely horrifying on a Mac—on a fat Mac with a fat video card, anyway—and we can't wait to see it.

Doom 3 took PC gamers by storm in August 2004, and Aspyr is bringing it to the Mac in February '05—a relatively short six months later. It's still in the alpha stage of development as we write this; Aspyr couldn't even provide a playable build to give us a feel for the game. (Such a build no doubt exists, but it must be locked up tighter than the Colonel's chicken recipe.) But soon Mac addicts will be battling mutants, demons, and fear-fueled madness in meticulously crafted environments rivaling those of any Hollywood horror thriller.

STORY LINE

**WELCOME TO MARS—
DON'T MIND THE DEMONS.**

You confront your Doom as an anonymous space marine dispatched to the Union Aerospace Corporation's Mars Research Facility just in time to survive the massive demonic invasion of 2145. Now you're the only thing standing between Hell's army and God's green Earth. And Hell has a big army.

Your mission is centered around fighting your way to (and through) the portal to Hell—not an easy find in the labyrinthine research complex. To keep you on track, your trusty PDA provides mission objectives and other documents, and you'll occasionally find PDAs dropped by fallen fellow marines. Among mission information, audio files, and security clearance codes, these found PDAs contain email messages received by the now-dead marine—some informative, some not, and some that provide URLs for Web sites where you can find more information and clues. Although none of the info on the Web is required for finishing the game, it's a cool touch. You get further guidance from overhearing conversations among other surviving (but not fighting) humans through vent shafts and around corners, and from short cut scenes.

ATMOSPHERE

IN SPACE, DEMONS WILL SEAR
YOUR SPLEEN.

Doom 3 creates a palpable, visceral environment of...well...doom. The Union Aerospace Corporation Facility on Mars is dark, dank, and thoroughly foreboding in several different ways. Creeping through endless gloomy corridors, you can hear agonized screams in the distance, while hidden scratching, scurrying, whispering, and whatnot emanate from everywhere. (Thank you, surround sound!) The soundtrack is also full of random drips of water, floor creaks, footsteps, and distant,

eerily distinct voices giving you advice—some of which is sound, some of which is suicide. It's downright nerve-wracking, and all the while you're mentally debating whether you should be holding the flashlight to see where you're going and what lies in wait (we're not kidding about the darkness) or the BFG (big, um, *fat* gun) to deal with those waiting demons when you find them—or they find you. You can only carry one weapon at a time, flashlight included. Decisions, decisions.

ARMORY

A SPACE MARINE IS ONLY AS GOOD
AS HIS TOOLS.

All of our favorite Doom weaponry is back, from good old fisticuffs and the standard pistol on up to the BFG. New toys include the Soul Cube, which you charge up by killing five demons. At that point the Soul Cube can instantly kill a demon and transfer the beaten monster's strength to you; recharge and repeat. We don't want to give away the plot, but the Soul Cube plays a key role in your mission to Hell—use it wisely. The key new piece of gear is the flashlight (did we mention the darkness?), which is also effective as a blunt object for clubbing demons in tight quarters.

Other items you can find lying around include ammo for all the weapons, protective body armor, restorative health packs, and the aforementioned PDAs. Power-ups include temporary invisibility; a superstrength-inducing MegaspHERE (more a state of mind than a physical sphere); and good old Berserk, one of

ARE YOU READY?

As games go, playing Doom 3 is more like entering a raging paintball melee than like playing a genteel game of chess against your Mac. Follow these simple guidelines to get the most out of the game—and to prepare yourself, because getting the most out of Doom 3 is one of those be-careful-what-you-wish-for propositions.

DROP SOME DOUGH Unless you recently sprung for a top-of-the-line G5 with all the trimmings, throwing a little money at your system can make a big difference. Our dream Doom 3 setup includes a Dual 2.5GHz Power Mac G5 (●●●●● Nov/04, p38), a Radeon 9800 Pro Mac Special Edition video card (●●●●● Sep/04, p51), and Logitech Z-680 5.1 Surround Sound speakers (●●●●● Jul/04, p49).

GO TO HELL This game is pure evil. If you're not comfortable with marauding demons from Hell, mangled-marine zombies, and the liberal use of pentagrams as a decorating motif, try a different game. Remember, your prime objective in Doom 3 involves a grisly trek to Hell.

EAT YOUR WHEATIES Like any good game, Doom 3 creates a time-sucking vortex. Don't forget to break for a regular meal at least once a day. (And no, Cheesy Poofs don't count.)

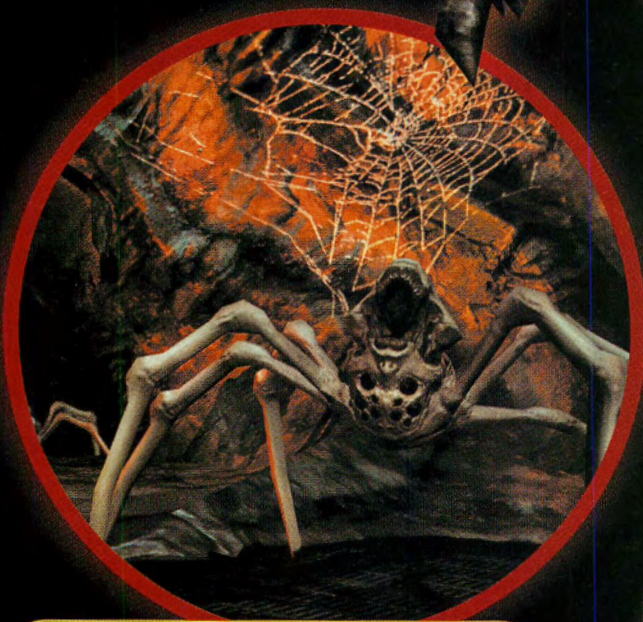
our favorites from the original Doom. Berserk (which plenty of games have copied since) tints your vision red as you run around at double speed, screaming bloody murder while dishing out 30 times more damage than normal with your flashlight-club, chainsaw, and fists. After all that time picking your way through dim, threatening corridors, a dose of zombicidal rage is just what the doctor ordered.

ENEMIES

ZOMBIES AND MUTANTS AND DEMONS, OH MY!

Doom is about demonic possession, so most of your enemies are of the demon-hell spawn persuasion. You also encounter endless hordes of zombies—as in Halo, the creepy twist here is that the zombies used to be responsible, respectable, well-adjusted space marines like you. Rounding out the cast are, at the low end, fireball-hurling Imps, crawling two-headed Maggots, and exploding Ticks. You can easily dispatch 'em all with any weapon, but they're spry little buggers, and a small pack can quickly overwhelm you. Higher up the demon chain you encounter Hell Knights, fire-shooting Arch-Viles, several classes of higher-level zombies with bigger guns and more armor, and fiends so heinous you wouldn't believe us if we told you about them—you'll have to meet them for yourself.

We can't describe the monsters of Doom 3 without mentioning the true oddities: Bernie the flaming zombie, Pinky the cyborg pit bull, almost-cute little demonic Cherubs, and the way-creepy Lost Souls. They're obviously sci-fi fantasies, yet they're somehow recognizable—which makes them completely spooky.



WARNING

The ESRB (entertainment software rating board) rates Doom 3 M for "mature"—and that's a capital, bold M, for gamers age 17 or above. We prefer id's advice: "Doom 3 is a terrifying Sci-Fi horror game experience. It is not recommended for the cowardly or the faint of heart. However, for those who dare to face Doom 3 as it was intended; lock your door, turn off the lights, and turn up your sound."



MULTIPLAYER

YOU CAN ALSO FRAG WITH YOUR FRIENDS. OR JUST FRAG THEM.

The original Doom was one of the first titles to offer networked multiplayer gaming, and Doom 3 multiplayer mode supports four-player play in four basic games: Deathmatch, Team Deathmatch, Last Man Standing, and Tournament. Nevertheless, Doom 3 is primarily a single-person game. Actually, it's more like a horror movie in which you play the onscreen hero, a fusion we're seeing more of as the lines blur between video games, TV, movies, and whatever comes next. Doom 3 takes a huge step in that direction with its integration of game play into a detailed cinematic environment and the depth of its plot, at least in single-player mode.

THE BOTTOM LINE

TERROR HAS ITS PRICE.

February's right around the corner, so start saving up for a Mac worthy of this game. If we scared you off with all of this talk of demons and hellfire, don't fret—when a completely new 3D engine like the one powering Doom 3 comes around, it's only a matter of time before other developers license the technology to power their own games. If, on the other hand, all this evil only piques your interest, you're in for a real treat. ■

IS YOUR MAC READY?

More than any game we've seen yet, Doom 3 will require a thoroughly modern Mac. The official (preliminary) system requirements call for a minimum 1.5GHz G5 processor and 384MB of RAM. While Apple's stock low-end video card, the nVidia GeForce FX 5200 Ultra, is *technically* up to snuff, recent Mac titles like Halo and Unreal Tournament 2004 have shown us (as have our Doom 3–playing peecce pals) that modern games run much more smoothly on a faster video card, such as a Radeon 9800 Pro or Radeon 9800 XT. PowerBooks and other G4-based Macs need not apply, and we'll have to wait to find out if Doom 3 will eat the iMac G5 for breakfast—or, more likely, a midnight snack.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS (as of press time; subject to change) Mac OS 10.3.6 or later; 1.5GHz PowerPC G5 or faster; 384MB RAM (512MB recommended); 2.2GB disk space; ATI Radeon 8500, nVidia GeForce 3, or better graphics card; 32MB VRAM; DVD drive

DEVELOPER Q&A

We went straight to the source—game programming legend John Carmack—to find out what it's like to be a modern game developer.

John Carmack, id Software's cofounder and technical director, has created legendary games such as the Doom and Quake series, which ranks him somewhere between rock star and pope in our book. If you've ever played any game on a Mac, chances are good that John Carmack had an influence on its developers. He took the time to answer some Doom 3 questions for us.

On the ideal development platform—Mac, PC, or console:

"I'm pretty happy with the modern development platforms—stability is good, and CPU speed has outpaced code bloat, so things feel responsive."

On the Mac's strengths:

"The more limited number of configurations places the Mac midway between the PC world and the console world."

And its weaknesses:

"Across the [Mac] installed base, the raw CPU speed is lower than on x86. This is a factor of both the MHz and the compiler quality. Tight kernels of code can be hand-optimized to fairly good effect, but the bulk of the execution time in a modern game is spread out over too wide an area to let this make a big difference."

If fighting monsters from Hell isn't your thing:

"There are several games under development with the Doom engine already."

What's next after the giant leap of Doom 3:

"I have been working on a new rendering engine for several months now, but we hope to keep changes to most of the other systems to an evolutionary level so we don't have to climb as steep a learning curve for our next project."

Unfortunately, neither John nor anyone else at id would comment on how the company's upcoming rendering engine will take advantage of Apple's Core Image and Core Video technologies (coming in Mac OS 10.4, aka Tiger). Carmack did mention that the "good support" from both Apple and nVidia helped in the development of Doom 3 for the Mac.



MacAddict editor Niko Coucouvanis fights his own personal demons every day in real life, but he can't wait to do it for fun in Doom 3.



iTrip mini shown
(actual size)

Let me take you on a trip...

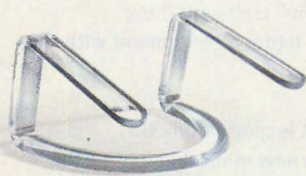
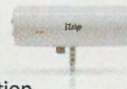
Quick, where do you most often listen to music? In your car, right? The easiest way to enjoy all of that music in your car is the Griffin iTrip. Snap iTrip on your iPod or iPod mini and suddenly your music is filling up your next road trip, daily commute or business trip - right through the built-in FM stereo of any car. Buy an iTrip for your iPod or iPod mini and your favorite song will always be on the radio.

iTrip FM Transmitter for iPod

\$39⁹⁹

- The **only** FM Transmitter designed exclusively for the iPod & iPod mini
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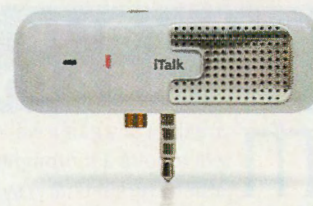
- iTrip for 4G iPods also available. Please visit us online for more information
- Draws power from the iPod, no batteries ever needed—or wasted



iCurve Laptop Desktop Stand

\$39⁹⁹

- Raises notebook screen to eye level - no more sore neck from looking down
- Creates room on the desktop for your favorite USB keyboard and mouse - wireless versions work great
- Keeps your notebook running cool (and loud fans off) with 360° airflow



iTalk Voice Recorder for iPod

\$39⁹⁹

- Turn your iPod into a digital voice recorder with thousands of hours of recording time
- Automatic Gain Control assures the best possible signal level for recordings
- Features internal microphone and built-in laptop quality speaker for playback
- Connect an external microphone or even headphones to the built in pass-through mini jack connection on top



iMic USB Audio Interface

\$39⁹⁹

- Record your old records and tapes to play in iTunes, put on your iPod, or burn to CDs
- Connect any keyboard, guitar or microphone directly to GarageBand for high quality recording
- Use line level output to connect your Mac to a stereo or external powered speakers

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MacAddict RATED

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AWESOME

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●●●●○

GREAT

You'll be impressed.

MacAddict RATED

●●●○○

SOLID

You'll be satisfied.

MacAddict RATED

●●○○○

SO-SO

You'll be disappointed.

MacAddict RATED

●○○○○

LOUSY

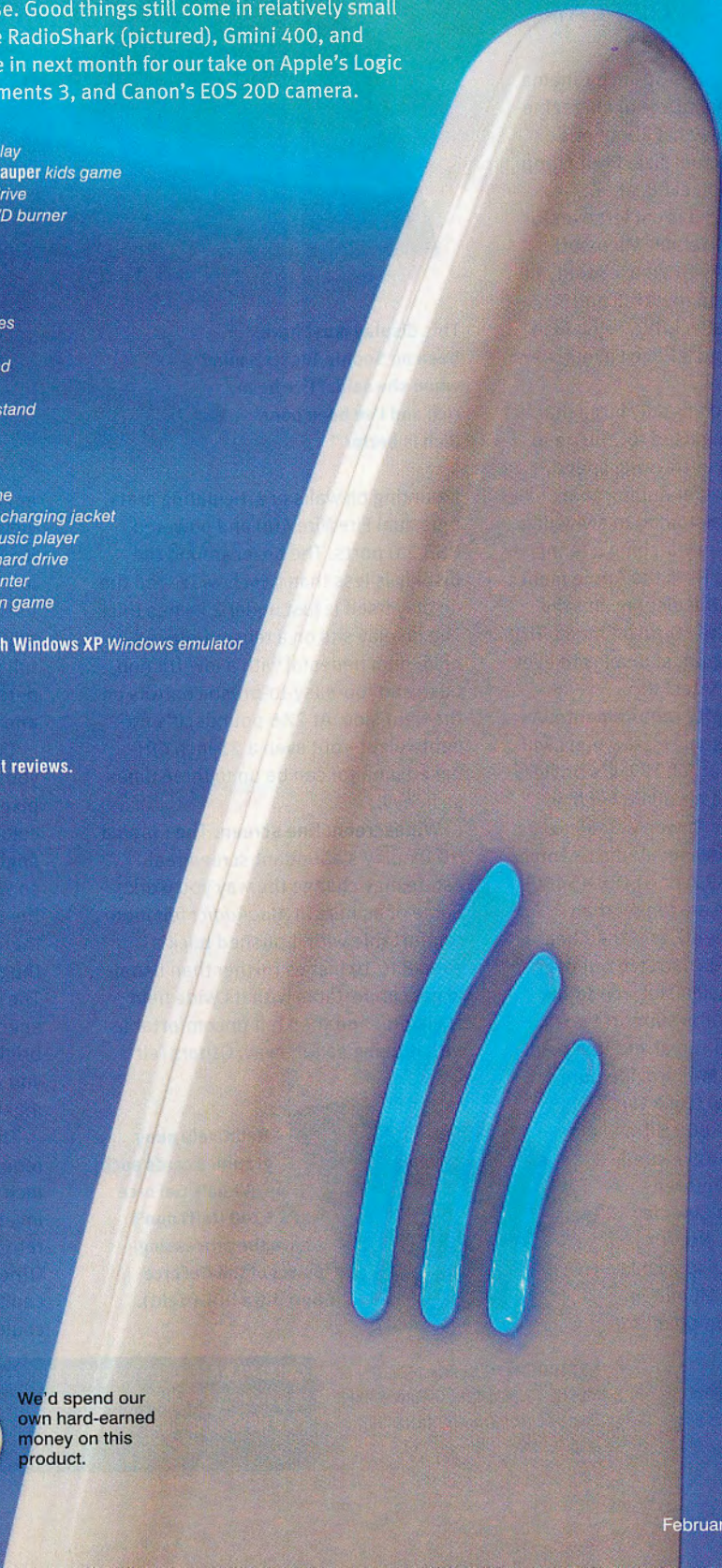
You'll be pissed off.

This month, we found out how Virtual PC looks on a 30-inch Cinema HD Display—gorgeous...but odd. Seeing Painter IX and Mirage on its gigantic screen set us at ease. Good things still come in relatively small packages, and we've got the RadioShark (pictured), Gmini 400, and Tungsten T5 to prove it. Tune in next month for our take on Apple's Logic Pro 7, Adobe Photoshop Elements 3, and Canon's EOS 20D camera.


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TheHotList


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PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO



Compatible with
Mac OS X or later.



Compatible with
Mac OS 9 or earlier.



We'd spend our own hard-earned money on this product.

30-inch Cinema HD Display

SPECTACULAR DISPLAY

How huge is Apple's 30-inch Cinema HD Display? An InDesign magazine-spread layout displays at about one-and-a-half times actual size. Photoshop displays a 6-megapixel file at 66.7 percent with plenty of room left over for piles o' palettes. A default Microsoft Excel spreadsheet with View > Zoom set at 100 percent is 116 rows tall and 33.5 columns wide—that's 3,886 cells. Also at 100 percent, Word's Page Layout view displays eight pages.

This display is so ungodly large that it takes a bit of getting used to. You need to set a faster mouse-tracking speed, develop a sharp eye for finding your cursor, and get accustomed to swiveling your neck as if you're watching a tennis match as you move from the Apple menu to the right side of the display. But the effort is worth it. The 30-inch Cinema HD Display is by far the finest display to ever house the Mac OS X desktop.

Hefty display, hefty requirements. As fabulous as this display is, few of us will ever enjoy it. First, at \$3,299, it's pricier than even the highest-end Power Mac G5—and you need a Power Mac G5 to run it. Plus, it requires an nVidia GeForce 6800 Ultra DDL (\$599) or GT DDL (\$499) graphics card. Both are longer than typical cards (see right), and their heat sinks and audible fans stretch out over the adjacent expansion slot, rendering it unusable. Both cards support two DVI displays—if you can afford it, a pair of 30-inch Displays will provide pure desktop indulgence. (Look for a full review of the 6800 Ultra DDL in our March 2005 issue.)

Like its smaller brethren—the 20- and 23-inch Cinema Displays (Nov/04, p39)—the 30-inch Display has a durable anodized aluminum case that's VESA-compliant for

This display must have been on Sophie Tucker's mind when she said, "I've been rich and I've been poor. Rich is better."

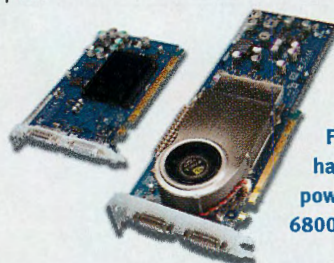
mounting on walls or articulating arms, plus dual FireWire 400 and powered USB 2.0 ports. The bezel around the display is less than 1 inch wide, and the display itself is just under 2 inches thick. The display sits on a tension-hinged aluminum pedestal with a low-friction base and too-easy-to-brush controls on the right side. At 27.5 pounds, it's no lightweight—but even a 21-inch CRT-based monitor can be up to three times as heavy.

Widescreen, fine screen. The Cinema HD Display's abundant screen real estate may change the way you work. Some of us here at MacAddict felt more comfortable with it pushed back a good 8 to 10 inches further than usual to get comfortable with its wide field of vision—and then felt uncomfortable with it being so far away. Others felt

immediately comfortable at normal viewing distances and dove right into its wide-open layout-, audio-, video-, and image-editing spaces. Spreadsheet users were in heaven; word-processing editors loved being able to display a full page of 8.5-point type at 200 percent; Safari surfers scrolled less and saw more.

Color fidelity is excellent—even if you're a nose-to-the-display Photoshop pixel pusher, you'll notice remarkable color consistency even at extreme angles. Pixel-response time is snappy, so when you gather your family around the display to watch widescreen DVDs, there's no image smearing, even when the onscreen action is fast and furious. The display is also quite bright: It's spec'd at 270 cd/m2 and noticeably brighter than a CRT—and if you're like us, you may actually find it's too bright at its maximum setting.

The bottom line. Including the required graphics card, the 30-inch Cinema HD Display is a hefty investment—but you'll see immediate returns if you use it as a production tool. Otherwise, it's an indulgence most of us can't afford. But, oh gawd, we wish we could.—Roman Loyola



Relatively puny graphics cards such as nVidia's GeForce FX 5200 (left) don't have the processing power of the GeForce 6800 Ultra DDL (right).



COMPANY: Apple
CONTACT: 800-795-1000 or 408-996-1010, www.apple.com
PRICE: \$3,299

REQUIREMENTS: Power Mac G5, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later, GeForce 6800 Ultra DDL (\$599) or GT DDL (\$499) graphics card

GOOD NEWS: Excellent design and image quality. Lots of elbow room on your desktop. HD compatible.
BAD NEWS: Expensive. Hefty hardware requirements.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

Virtual PC for Mac Version 7 with Windows XP

SNAPPIER WINDOWS EMULATOR

When Microsoft bought Connectix's Virtual PC division back in February '03, it was unclear whether the Windows monger would improve the venerable PC emulator with some sorely needed performance gains, or simply kill the aging app. Now we know: Virtual PC 7 is here, and it's snappier than previous versions. Just don't expect to play Doom 3 on it—VPC is still built for convenience, not speed.

Convenience-wise, VPC keeps getting easier to install. The version we reviewed doesn't even come with a Windows installation disc, but rather a preinstalled Virtual Machine—it took us all of 15 minutes to install it, configure it, and hit the Web

(in Internet Explorer 6 no less—woo-hoo!). We feel dirty saying it, but we've had Mac OS installations go less smoothly.

We didn't expect VPC to handle our PC copy of Doom 3 for one simple reason: Video RAM. Even more than other modern games, Doom 3 requires a boatload of VRAM (at least 64MB). VPC still tops out at 16MB, and the default is a ridiculously low 4MB. (See "Pump It Up," right, for performance tuning tips). Another weak performance link is RAM; you can delegate only 512MB of your Mac's RAM to power the emulated PC. Too bad, since we'd like to see if a couple gigs of RAM



Toning down Windows interface fluff helps cure the clunk—at least a little.



iTunes on Windows on Mac OS X. Has the world gone mad?

would speed things up.

Performance. VPC 7's speed isn't impressive, but we have to give Microsoft credit making it somewhat quicker. On the same Dual 1.25GHz Power Mac G4 we used to test Virtual PC 6 (MacAddict Apr/03, p51), VPC 7 clocked in with over twice the speed, reporting speed equivalent to a 1.6GHz Pentium Pro, whereas VPC 6 called it a 666MHz X86. Regardless of how different flavors of Pentium processors stack up, VPC 7 is noticeably quicker—unfortunately, it still adds the insult of slow, clunky redraws and interface lag time to the injury that is Windows.

Other than significant retooling for

Apple's latest wares (namely the G5 processor and Mac OS 10.3), Virtual PC's list of major new features is short. Printing is greatly improved; VPC taps right into your Mac's existing print drivers, so you don't need to install a driver for most printers. And even if your printer needs a driver, you can install it normally on your Mac and Virtual PC will tap into it from the Windows environment. Version 7 is more about improving old VPC features than adding new ones. In preferences, for example, you can set up

the PC much more precisely than before, taking control over everything from those annoying Windows OS alerts (yes, we know our PC may be infected—stop being redundant) to CPU usage, and a mainline button to launch the PC Settings dialog from VPC's Preferences. That may seem like a no-brainer, but it's easy to forget about the PC Settings, and you can use them to eek some of the clunkiness out of your faux Windows system.

The bottom line. Even these days when you can score a real peecce for barely more than VPC's price, we'd pick Virtual PC over the real Intel deal. But if we didn't know Doom 3 was coming to the Mac, it'd be a tougher decision.—Niko Koucouvanis

PUMP IT UP

Jumping through these minor hoops will make your VPC experience less clunky and Windows-like.

- ▶ Get the VPC 7.0.1 update (free, www.mactopia.com)
- ▶ Go to www.windowupdate.com, and install Service Pack 2 and all available patches.
- ▶ Disable any third-party firewall software, and use Mac OS X's built-in firewall instead.
- ▶ Open VPC Preferences and jack up the RAM and VRAM settings as high as you can.
- ▶ In the Windows Control Panel, open the System settings, click the Advanced tab, and go nuts with the Performance settings.



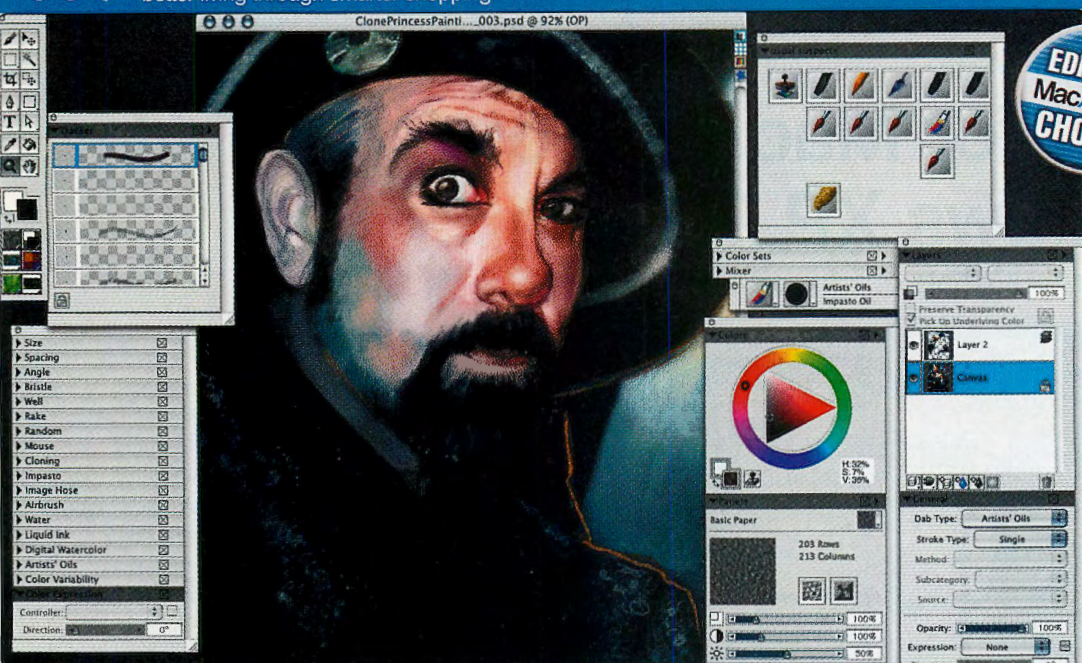
COMPANY: Microsoft
CONTACT: 800-642-7676, www.microsoft.com/mac
PRICE: \$249 (with Windows XP Pro), \$129 (sans Windows XP Pro), or \$99 (upgrade from VPC 5 or 6)

REQUIREMENTS: 700MHz G3 (no upgrades), Mac OS 10.2.8 or later (10.3 required with G5), 512MB RAM, 3GB disk space

GOOD NEWS: Brainless setup. Faster than previous versions.
BAD NEWS: Low RAM and VRAM capacities. Still can't handle games.

MacAddict RATED

GREAT



EDITORS' MacAddict CHOICE
The new Painter looks like the old, but it has more horsepower and new features that make it feel like you're really painting.

you can tweak the Boost Slider to make it faster. Corel says this mode uses fewer random strokes to get the performance boost, but we barely saw any degradation after mashing a bunch of strokes and colors together. *Way cool.*

More to like. Another favorite addition is the new and amazing set of Artists' Oils. Not only can you grab paint right off the mixing

palette and apply it to the canvas just like real oil paint, but also you can set a brush to get dirty after so many strokes, to carry more than one color on its hairs, and to run out of pigment gradually. The media interaction was so realistic that we found ourselves checking our Wacom Intuos3 stylus (👉👉👉, Jan/05, p44) to make sure it wasn't leaking paint.

Other new and welcome additions include KPT Effects; one-step cloning; customizable shortcut keystrokes; multiuser support, with custom settings and palette layouts for different users on the same Mac; various color sets, artist colors; and the really nifty ability to stroke paths with a brush, which gives a more natural or painterly feel to a vector file. There's also an iterative save feature, which automatically attaches a version number, such as pic.tif_001, pic.tif_002.

The bottom line. In creating this update, Corel has plainly seen the wisdom of interacting with its core users. And by offering training programs online, as well as tutorials in the manual, the company is also looking to convert those who may find Painter's depth of options intimidating. Painter IX is a worthy addition to your artist toolbox—and if you already have Painter 8, upgrade now. Right now.

—Steven Parke

Painter IX

ULTRAREALISTIC PAINT PROGRAM

On the surface, Corel's Painter IX looks like Painter 8 (not known as Painter VIII). But under the hood, Painter's revamped engine provides a screaming speed boost. Painter IX also has nifty new features and tweaks that move its natural media tools, papers, and pigments even closer to a real-life paint experience.

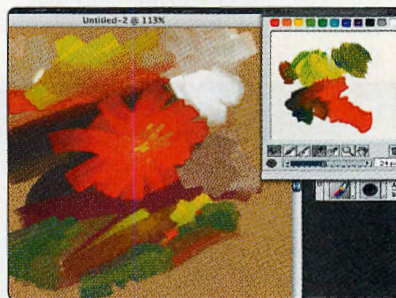
As soon as you launch it, Painter presents you with a change—a welcome screen (you can set it to not appear, if you prefer). From this screen, you can choose what files to open, create a new canvas, look at other artists' work, register for free Painter training, and tweak settings before you start your new painting—we like being able to adjust the brush stroke palette manually to reflect our mood or the amount of caffeine we've ingested.

When you open a work in progress, all of the tools you used—from colors to brushes to paper textures—are right where you left 'em. If that's not cool enough for you, let's talk about speed.

In previous versions, Painter couldn't keep up with brush strokes in large images, a

drawback for working with liquid ink or watercolor—it forced you to paint in slooow motion. But in Painter IX, all the brushes gain some serious speed, and you get real-time results. On a Dual 1.25GHz G4, we saw at least triple speed gains when we used the default oil brushes in a 2,700-by-3,600-pixel image. Corel says some of its brushes offer more than a tenfold speed improvement. Whether it's three times or ten times faster, it's awesome.

But wait—it gets better. Painter has a Boost Slider (available via the Brush Controls) that gives you the ability to turn up the render time. In instances where a brush seems slow,



Painter's mixing palette is so realistic you want to wash your stylus afterward.



COMPANY: Corel
CONTACT: 800-772-6735,
www.corel.com
PRICE: \$429 (boxed) or \$399 (download)

REQUIREMENTS: 500MHz G3 or faster,
Mac OS 10.2.8 or later, 128MB RAM,
24-bit color display, 1,024 by 768 screen
resolution or better, 395MB disk space

GOOD NEWS: New speed records. Great new oil brushes.

BAD NEWS: Color-management settings don't require reapplication upon opening image.

MacAddict RATED
👉👉👉👉👉
AWESOME

Grid2

DAZZLING VIDEO-PLAYBACK TOOL



Grid2's interface gives you immediate access to 128 movies. Click to play—it's that simple.

The digitalization of video made it a new performance medium. These days people are using it, like music, to set the mood of presentations and performances. Video jockeys—VJs—are even mixing videos during concerts and parties. The VJ's main tool is a video management and playback system—one such system is Vidvox's Grid2, a simple, clean, and effective app that eschews useless bells and whistles.

Grid2's streamlined interface consists of a main screen of 128 slots for QuickTime or Flash videos, arranged as a 12-by-12-cell grid with a "now playing" window in the lower-right corner. Grid2 automatically loads the first seconds of each video into RAM to provide quick response when you trigger a video. You can also load entire videos into memory,

though Grid2 is good at juggling videos and memory resources.

Attach a MIDI

controller to your Mac, and the fun really begins—you can use a music keyboard to trigger the videos. Grid2 can also act as a basic media sequencer, playing videos automatically in sequential or random order. Use the modulation and pitch wheels of a MIDI keyboard to jog a movie back and forth, or use a programmable cross-fade effect to switch smoothly



Grid2 offers excellent support for OpenGL acceleration and display control.

between movies.

Grid2's response is snappy—essential for live performances. It has options for looping videos, controlling where video playback begins and ends between movies, and minimizing audio clicks and pops as you switch from one movie to the next. Grid2 also supports DV-resolution video streams, as well as the enhanced video-playback performance offered by OpenGL acceleration in selected video cards. And you can save and load sets of videos for quick configuration when performing—another example of thoughtful interface design.

Controls. To ensure that video switching synchronizes properly with the beat, Grid2 has controls for fine-tuning playback and transition timing. Grid2's excellent jog and reverse playback options allow extensive manipulation of video and associated audio—and they work even better if you use a Contour ShuttlePro USB jog wheel (see *Reviews*, May/01, p61).

Grid2's support of turntable MIDI controllers such as EJ's MIDI Turntable (\$999, www.ejenterprises.tv) or Ms. Pinky Vinyl (\$99 for a set of four vinyl records plus software—you supply the turntable; www.mspinky.com) allows you to "scratch" video, opening up old-school DJ techniques to the world of video manipulation. It gets even weirder if you happen to own esoteric MIDI controllers such as Big Briar's Ethervox MIDI Theremin (you wave your hands in the air to play the Theremin and your videos), or tie Grid2 into a MIDI sequencer to deliver video effects synchronized to music from the sequencer.

Our only gripe with Grid2 is that it doesn't directly support importing MP3 audio files to use as mix elements, something we consider useful for musical performance work.

The bottom line. Grid2 isn't for everyone, but if you need extreme control and tight integration with a MIDI rig, grab it.—David Biedny

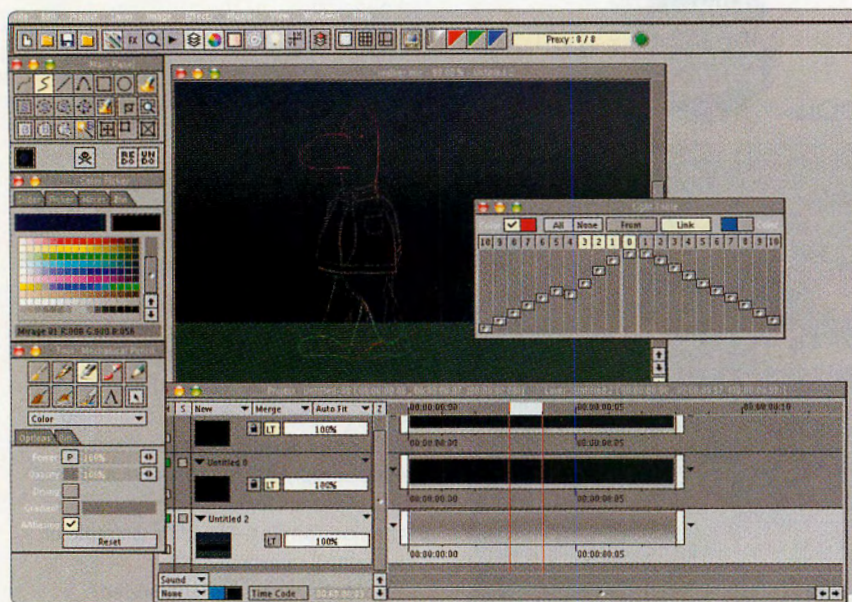


COMPANY: Vidvox
CONTACT: 800-856-1502,
www.vidvox.net
PRICE: \$75

REQUIREMENTS: G4 or faster,
Mac OS 10.2.8 or later, 256MB RAM,
QuickTime 6.5

GOOD NEWS: Excellent playback performance. Efficient interface. Extensive MIDI control of video playback. Thoughtful real-time performance features.
BAD NEWS: No MP3 support.





Mirage's Light Table lets you see 10 frames behind and 10 frames ahead of your animation, with control over color, opacity and visibility of each frame.

effect, and it runs counter to Bauhaus's claim that Mirage works in real time. Apple's Motion requires mounds of processing power, but at least it's true real-time processing.

Curiously, Mirage runs in a single window—even the Mirage menubar resides inside the window while the actual Mac OS X menubar is functionless. Also, when you have two displays and try to drag any of Mirage's control panels to the second display, it won't go. You can't drag anything beyond Mirage's single window, which is frustrating because Mirage's many panels can take up a *lot* of space.

Other cool features. A built-in sprite-based particle generator allows you to create your own particles from 2D images, and the built-in Volumetric Light effect generates streaks of light—an effect that's available as a third-party plug-in for other apps. The AutoPaint feature allows you to record a motion path live (such as a handwritten title sequence) and save that path for other effects (think *sparkly* handwritten title sequence).

Mirage 1.2

QUIRKY ANIMATION SOFTWARE

At first glance, Mirage looks like yet another video-compositing application in that it takes individual visual elements and combines them into a final moving image. That capability, however, is already well covered by such apps as Adobe's After Effects (Sep/04, p46), Discreet's Combustion (Sep/04, p47) and Apple's Motion (Nov/04, p36). Dig a little deeper in Mirage, however, and you find a full set of painting tools—in fact, those tools are among its strongest features.

Mirage comes with typical paint tools (pens, pencils, and airbrushes) as well as unique ones that you can make the most of using a graphics tablet. The OilBrush tool, for example, creates strokes with the look of oil paint on canvas, the WetBrush tool simulates a wet watercolor paintbrush, and the WarpBrush and SpecialBrush tools warp and smear (respectively) your images for interesting effects. Mirage's Color Picker features a Mixer, where you can smear together different colors to create new ones.

The animation situation. Mirage does animation frame by frame. Before

Flash-heads and vector-is-where-it's-at weenies whine about animating without automated tweening (generating images between two keyframes), remember that certain animations require that you use the frame-by-frame method of animating. Mirage also has compositing capabilities; you can mix and match your frame-by-frame animations with video and still images. Roger Rabbit on your Mac? You bet.

Mirage's Light Table function can display up to 10 images before and after your current frame, helping you maintain motion and shape consistency. You can also use the Light Table to adjust an individual frame's opacity.

Quirks. Mirage's compositing features differ from conventional compositors. For example, in After Effects you can add, remove, or tweak an effect at any time in multiple layers without making any commitments. In Mirage, you must commit to the effect on a layer before moving on to work with another layer. This is a tedious process because you have to wait for Mirage to apply the



Mirage's FX stack has welcome built-in effects such as Volumetric Light, which adds Movie-of-the-Week lighting to your images.

The bottom line. Is Mirage good enough to replace After Effects, Combustion, or Motion? Nah, but it's a great addition to your video-production arsenal.—Andrew Tokuda



COMPANY: Bauhaus Software
CONTACT: 210-212-7530,
www.bauhaussoftware.com
PRICE: \$695

REQUIREMENTS: G3 or faster, Mac OS 10.3
or later, 128MB RAM, 2GB disk space

GOOD NEWS: Strong traditional tools. Unique paint tools. All-in-one graphics animation solution.
BAD NEWS: Quirky interface. Unfamiliar effects workflow.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

Solar SeV Finetex Shell

SPIFFY GADGET-CHARGING JACKET



Solar panels—the reason why you're wearing a jacket in 70-degree sunshine.

Finetex and has a DuPont Coolmax lining—you'll stay cool while you run from security for stealing WiFi bandwidth. The jacket feels durable, not flimsy; it protects you from wind and provides warmth without bulk (in case you live in Antarctica, a Solar SeV with a fleece lining is available for \$624.98). Magnets hold the zipper flap in place so you don't feel a draft, and the sleeves are removable.

The Solar SeV has pockets galore—30, to be exact. There are pockets for your hands, wallet, pens, MP3 player, PDA, *MacAddict* magazine, thumb drives, light saber, hamster, and more. There's even an attached lanyard for your keys, a buckle for who knows what, and a water-bottle

holder. Oh, and don't forget the included Koss earbuds.

Power broker. The solar panels charge a battery that's just a bit thicker than an iPod. A cable threads through the jacket and attaches to the battery, which has an indicator light to tell you when it's charging. The battery has a single USB connector—it only powers

With 30 pockets, you may need a map to figure out where you put your wallet.

There's nothing sadder than a gadget guru without power—not vim and vigor; we're talking about electricity. If you want to go anywhere without having to worry about power outlets to charge your cell phone, MP3 player, or PDA, the Solar SeV Finetex Shell turns you into a walking power plant. The jacket has a set of panels on its back that captures solar energy to charge a pocket-size battery. From behind, you look like one of the Starship Troopers gone astray—it's definitely a conversation-starter. Not feeling chatty? Remove the panels, and the SeV turns into a plain ol' jacket.

Actually, the jacket's not so plain. It's made of a breathable nylon called

gadgets that can charge through a USB connection (sorry, iPod—oh, and you too, trusty digital camera). If you do have a chargeable gadget, go buy a USB charging cable, because the Solar SeV doesn't come with one (you can purchase a retractable universal phone-charger cable from ScotteVest for \$19.99).

ScotteVest says the battery takes two to three hours to charge in direct sunlight. Since we didn't plan on staying in the sun for that long, we detached the panels from the jacket, placed them in the sun, and scampered back to our Macs. Three hours later, we came back to a charged battery, plugged in our cell phone, and saw the phone's charge symbol (fully charging a device from the battery can take three to five hours). With the panels attached to the jacket, we didn't feel any excess heat, and most of the time we forgot the panels were there.

The only way to recharge the Solar SeV battery is by exposing the solar panels to sunlight. In areas where sunlight is hard to come by—the *MacAddict's* offices (this explains our pasty complexions), cars, holding cells—the battery doesn't keep charging. A ScotteVest representative says that the company made this conscious decision to make solar charging efficient and that it will be

investigating alternative methods of charging (via a 12-volt socket or wall outlet) for future Solar SeVs.

The bottom line. It's hard to imagine a situation where you'd need a solar-powered jacket—in the middle of the desert at Burning Man, maybe? But you won't buy the Solar SeV because you *need* it, you'll buy it because you *want* it.—Roman Loyola



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SAMANTHA BERG



COMPANY: ScotteVest
CONTACT: 866-909-8378,
www.scottevest.com
PRICE: \$474.99

REQUIREMENTS: Sunlight

GOOD NEWS: Charges gadgets as you tote them. Lots of pockets. Comfortable. Removable solar panels.

BAD NEWS: Gadgets must support USB charging. USB cables not included. Charges only one device at a time.

MacAddict RATED

SOLID

Store 'n' Go USB HD Drive

SENSIBLE PORTABLE HARD DRIVE

Verbatim's Store 'n' Go USB HD Drive looks like a doublewide solid-state flash drive, but inside is a 2.1GB one-inch hard drive. At \$249, it's cheaper than many 2GB flash drives.

Most USB peripherals don't come with a USB cable (argh!), but Store 'n' Go not only has a built-in USB cable, it also includes an extension cable (yay!). Also included are a squishy carrying case and an attachable carry-cord that, unfortunately, is almost impossible to thread through the hole on the case.

The drive works with USB 1.1, but data transfers take a while—it took over an hour for us to copy 2GB of data. You'll be much happier if you use USB 2.0, with which we experienced a manageable



It's not
Flashy, but
it can go
wherever
you go.

3MBps transfer rate, or 12 minutes to write 2GB.

The bottom line. LaCie's nifty Data Bank (p. 61) offers more capacity for less money, but even the 4.4-ounce Data Bank is well over twice as heavy as the Store 'n' Go. And it's not as cute.—*Kristina De Nike*

COMPANY: Verbatim **PRICE:** \$249
CONTACT: 800-421-2188, www.verbatim.com
REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 9 or later, USB port

GOOD NEWS: Hyper-portable. Cheaper than flash drives.
BAD NEWS: More expensive than larger drives.

MacAddict RATED
SOLID

Tungsten T5

WHIZ-BANG PDA

Shoulder bag starting to weigh you down? We feel your pain. You can't leave home without a gaggle of gadgets—laptop, MP3 player, PDA, and USB drive. PalmOne's Tungsten T5 PDA lifts the burden by combining those functions in one device.

The T5 has a giant, gorgeous 320-by-480-pixel TFT color display. You can view files in landscape or portrait mode—a great option for photos. You can also use the included Documents to Go software to view Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files.

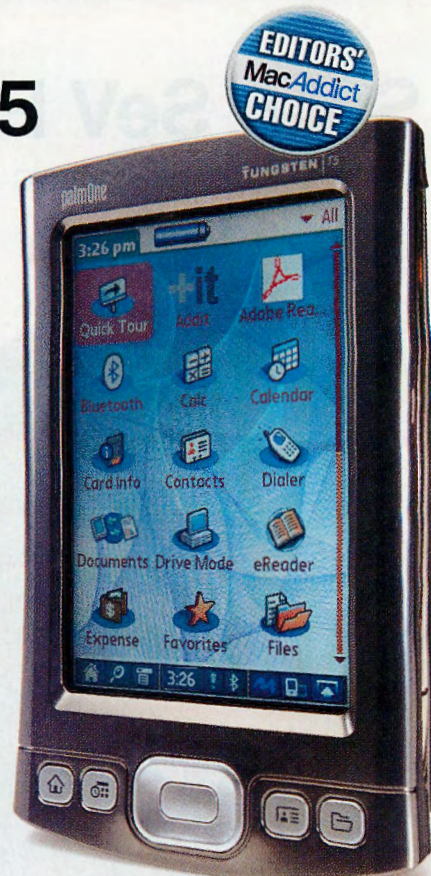
While the T5 looks like a hybrid of the T3 (\$349) and the Tungsten E (\$199), several handy features make it stand out. First, the T5 has 256MB of internal memory (215MB available for storing data), up from 64MB on the T3. You can store quite a few MP3s, Word documents, and photos on your T5 without having to buy an SD or MMC card. And speaking of memory, the T5 uses flash memory, so it can retain data such as contacts, expenses, and calendar items even after it runs out of juice—previous Palm devices lost the data if the battery depleted, forcing you to sync again.

More to like. The T5 also functions as a USB drive for storing and transferring files. Simply connect the T5 to your Mac via the included USB sync cable, and turn on Drive Mode (accessible from the T5's main menu)—your T5 will appear as a USB drive on your Mac's desktop.

To make it easier to get to your files, the T5 features two new views in the main menu: Favorites (for launching anything from Word docs to apps) and Files (for quickly accessing all of your files). File transfers have a couple negatives—you need to tote around the specialized USB cable to use Drive Mode

COMPANY: PalmOne
CONTACT: 800-881-7256, www.palmone.com
PRICE: \$399

GOOD NEWS: Increased internal memory. Retains information in flash memory. Acts as a USB drive.
BAD NEWS: Nonstandard USB cable. No support for AAC.



Lighten your
load with Tungsten.

on the road, and you can't use the T5 for anything else, not even syncing, in Drive Mode.

One other convenience is built-in Bluetooth. Using iSync, we synced the T5 wirelessly to our Mac OS X Address Book and had zero problems. We also used Bluetooth to transfer files such as photos and MP3s—sorry, the device doesn't support the AAC music format. Also, the T5 doesn't recognize QuickTime movies, but there is a way to convert movies to the proper format—Windows Media's Advanced Systems Format (ASF)—during the syncing process.

The bottom line. The T5 is a sexy little number and an ideal solution if you want to slim down your bag by ditching a few devices.—*Cathy Lu*

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.2.6 or later, USB port

MacAddict RATED
GREAT



So realistic, you can smell the coal smoke.

Railroad Tycoon 3

BUGGY-BUT-BEAUTIFUL SIMULATION GAME

MacSoft's Railroad Tycoon 3 has traveled many miles since its predecessor. It's a journey well traveled; despite a few bugs, RT3 brings the romance of the rails to your Mac, and the new features do a lot to improve the game.

Unlike the previous version, you can now build industries and tunnels. Cargo moves more realistically, and your passengers now have destinations in mind. A new 3D engine creates splendiferous graphics, even on the default low-resolution setting. A new Automatic Consist Manager figures out your cargo and its load priority based on your route. MacSoft also streamlined the interface considerably. You no longer have to go to separate screens to check the stock market or manage trains;

instead, you perform those chores on an overlay panel that doesn't obscure the main screen.

Derailed. Our first RT3 install disc was defective,

but—thankfully—MacSoft's tech support was prompt and helpful, and the phone call and replacement disc were both free (though the call wasn't toll-free). The game's copy protection requires Disc 2 in the drive to play. That sucks, but it's typical of games nowadays.

RT3 ran fine, if slowly, on a 450MHz Sawtooth G4—after we upgraded the original 16MB Rage 128 Pro graphics card to an ATI 128MB Radeon 9200 Mac Edition. It also played reasonably well on our 1.25GHz iBook G4. Cursor action is sluggish and inaccurate, and the main view often scrolls right when you're trying to click the far-right side of the overlay panel. RT3 has an auto-save function, which was handy for when the game crashed while we were playing. Multiplayer games lagged and were buggy, though not unplayable. MacSoft is working on fixes—be sure to check the company's Web site patches.

The bottom line. We thoroughly enjoyed playing RT3 and were amused to find that RT3 maps Norfolk, VA, to the Outer Banks. We shouldn't poke fun at the geographically challenged, but we hope RT4 puts Norfolk where it belongs, bordering Chesapeake.—Mary Tyler

TIP

CHEATS

Press the period key and type the following:
big dog gets you \$10 million.
fat cat gets you \$1 million.
bailout gets a company \$10 million.
subsidy gets a company \$1 million.
passport give you access to all territories.

COMPANY: MacSoft

CONTACT: 866-512-9111, www.macsoftgames.com

PRICE: \$49.99

REQUIREMENTS: 400MHz G4 or faster, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later, 256MB RAM, 32MB video card, modem for Internet play, 1.2GB disk space,

GOOD NEWS: Provides months of engrossing fun.

BAD NEWS: Wonky interface. Designers need a geography tutor.

MacAddict RATED



SOLID



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BOX™

ELECTRIFY
Your GarageBand™

- Over 4,000 Apple Loops
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Gmini 400

VERSATILE MEDIA PLAYER

Beware, beloved iPod—the Archos Gmini 400 has its sights set on you. This multifaceted gadget delivers a salvo of features, including a color LCD, MPEG-4 movie playback, music playback, photo viewing, and video games. Even the most devoted iPod enthusiast will be in awe.

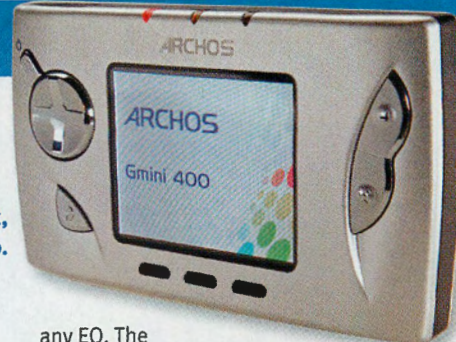
At an iPod-esque 5.7 ounces and 4.2 by 2.4 by .7 inches, the Gmini bears a resemblance to your average handheld video game. The 2.2-inch, 220-by-176-pixel color LCD is flanked by a D-pad on the left and two action buttons on the right.

The Gmini supports DivX, XviD, and MPEG-4 video playback (no Mac encoder included), and MP3, WMA, and WAV audio (sorry, no AAC). It has a built-in Mophun video-game engine (the type

used in many cellular phones), and a viewer for JPG and BMP images. It also offers 20GB of storage, USB 2.0 for drag-and-drop file transfers, a CompactFlash card slot, a rechargeable lithium-ion battery, and a multiconnect jack for audio input and NTSC video out.

Looks good. Video playback is smooth and bright when viewed straight on, although we noticed some jaggedness. For our testing, we used HandBrake (free, <http://handbrake.m0k.org>) to convert a DVD to MPEG-4; you can use QuickTime Pro (\$29.99, www.quicktime.com) to convert your iMovie projects. Considering it as an MP3 player, we like the customizable playlists and audio recording, but the device doesn't have

Watch out,
iPod photo.



any EQ. The video games (one full title, four demos) are only mildly entertaining. When viewing photos, our full-size images looked pixelated, but you can zoom in on small details. The slide show lacks a music background feature like the one the iPod photo provides.

The Gmini's battery averaged 4 hours and 55 minutes of video and 12 hours of audio in our tests. Nice numbers—it's rated by Archos at 5 and 10 hours for video and audio, respectively.

The bottom line. The Gmini 400 is an impressive little gadget for all the features it packs—and you won't find some of those features in the iPod photo.—*Gil Loyola*



COMPANY: Archos

CONTACT: 949-609-1483,

www.archos.com

PRICE: \$399.95

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 9.2 to

9.x or 10.2.4 or later

GOOD NEWS: MPEG-4 video playback. Long battery life.

Good price compared to similar devices.

BAD NEWS: No EQ. No MPEG-4 encoder. Bundled games are lousy—but better than the iPod's.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

FL300

MINIATURE MP3 PLAYER

MPIO's FL300 looks like a shiny piece of blue sapphire wrapped around your arm—it's definitely small enough to wear anywhere at just 1.97 inches tall, 1.18 inches wide, and 0.5 inches deep, and it comes with an armband. Take a closer look, and you'll find a stylish flash-based MP3 player with a few quirks.

Six slim and responsive buttons sit loosely around the FL300's sliver of an LCD, which is actually a bright monochrome display with nice contrast. You can protect the face of the FL300 with the included case, a clear plastic job that does its best to not detract from the player's look.

The FL300 comes with fixed flash memory (our player had 128MB) and lacks memory expansion options. You load music by using the FL300 like a

thumb drive—plug it into a USB port and drag over your MP3, WMA, or ASF files (you can't play AAC-formatted music from the iTunes Music Store). Interestingly, every time we dismantled the FL300 in the Finder, it would almost instantly remount. We worked around the problem with some swift thinking—we quickly unplugged the device after the Finder dismount.

MPIO is looking into this problem but hasn't yet provided a fix.

Battery life. MPIO claims 10 hours of continuous playback with its rechargeable battery. Our continuous loop of *Methods* by Charizma and Peanut



Actual size—goes well with
your Zippo lighter, pillbox,
and Tic Tacs.

Butter Wolf ran for 8 hours and 26 minutes before the FL300 pooped out.

An equalizer allows you to make audio adjustments, and genre-based presets are also available. The FL300 has audio modes called studio, concert, groove, and dynamic bass. The device's headphones lack bass punch, and the highs fall a bit flat. You can use the built-in microphone to capture clear and crisp voice recordings.

The bottom line. At \$99.99 for the 128MB models we tested, the FL300 is a stylish and economical buy. Don't like Sapphire Blue? Go for Ruby Red or Amethyst Violet instead.

—*Gil Loyola*



COMPANY: MPIO

CONTACT: 858-554-1300,

www.mpio.com

PRICE: \$99.99 (128MB), \$129.99 (256MB)

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 9.2 to 9.x or Mac OS X or later

GOOD NEWS: Teeny-tiny and stylish.

Rechargeable battery. Voice recording.

BAD NEWS: Loose buttons. Buggy behavior when adding tracks. No AAC support.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

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Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell

STEALTHY ACTION GAME

Get into the Police Precinct

Expert use of light and shadows fuels *Splinter Cell*'s realism. Many light sources are dynamic—you can shoot out street lights and then work under cover of darkness.

Playing Tom Clancy's *Splinter Cell*, you can't help but remember the immortal words of Elmer Fudd: “Be vewy, vewy quiet.” In *Splinter Cell*, you walk in the shoes of Sam Fischer, a high-tech stealth soldier whose job is to save the world without being seen or heard.

The game's premise is one of those doomsday scenarios you'd expect from Clancy: Nasty folks with links to China, along with some ex-Soviets, are on the verge of starting World War III, and it's up to you to stop 'em. This entails journeying around the world on covert missions to uncover clues, steal technology, assassinate villains—whatever it takes to say confidently, “Mission accomplished!” Your tools include a small assortment of guns, but you must also rely on gadgets such as remote spy cameras, night-vision goggles, and Sam himself—you are your own best weapon.

Tip-toe control. The easy-to-use controls let you sneak up behind enemies to knock them out with a sharp elbow or pistol whip. But that's just a taste of what you can do. Not only can you crouch, run, and climb ladders and

fences (big whoop), but you can also do evasive rolls, rappel down walls, swing through glass windows, scurry across horizontal pipes, slide down wires, and do the splits to brace yourself between two walls while baddies walk directly below. These moves look exquisite, thanks to first-rate character animation.

Splinter Cell's gameplay takes some getting used to if you've been reared on shooting-based action games. You have some rousing firefights, to be sure, but you spend the majority of the game sneaking through shadows to dodge spotlights and security cameras, or knocking out lone guards and quietly dragging their bodies out of sight. Warming up to Sam's kid-gloves approach took us about an hour of play, especially because of the slow-as-molasses training course the game forces you to complete before starting the real missions.

The bottom line. Once you start your missions, the fun kicks in. *Splinter Cell*'s pace builds great tension, and its unfolding spycraft story kept us looking forward to each new revelation.
—Helmut Kobler

TIP

CHEATS

Press the F2 key and type the following:
invincible 1 (enable God mode)
invincible 0 (disable God mode)
invisible 1 (invisibility)
invisible 0 (disable invisibility)
ammo (full ammunition)
health (full health)

COMPANY: Aspyr
CONTACT: 888-212-7797, www.aspyr.com
PRICE: \$49.99

REQUIREMENTS: 867MHz G4 or faster, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later, 256MB RAM, 1.7GB disk space; 32MB video card, DVD drive

GOOD NEWS: Unique gameplay. Dynamic lighting. Smooth character animation. Easy controls.

BAD NEWS: An hour passed before the fun started.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

MacAddict

RadioShark

HANDY TIVO-ESQUE RADIO RECORDER

Personal video recorders such as TiVo and ReplayTV changed the way we watch TV. Griffin's RadioShark changes the way we listen to radio. RadioShark digitally records radio broadcasts, giving you more freedom with your favorite shows.

RadioShark connects to your Mac via USB, and it's fin-like appearance looks groovy next to your Mac; where you actually place it depends on your radio reception, so you may need a USB extension cord (not included). We had no problems getting clear signals from both our favorite and our not-so-favorite stations.

The fin contains an AM/FM radio and its antenna, and the control software is easy to use. You can compile a list of

preset stations, which you can sort by frequency but not by genre (talk, easy listening, college, and so on).

Record radio. RadioShark records to disk as you listen, so you can rewind at will or fast-forward after recording. You can even set fast-forward to jump ahead, say, 30 seconds—yay! No commercials! You can adjust the recording buffer for size; the bigger it is, the more disk space you need. RadioShark helpfully tells you the size of the buffer space.

Scheduling a recording session is easy: Enter the start and end times, the station,



Cooler than connecting your old transistor radio.

and the name of your recording, and you're good to go. Don't let your Mac go to sleep, however—RadioShark won't wake it up to record your show.

You can set RadioShark to automatically export your recording to iTunes, which will move it to your iPod. You have only two file formats to choose from, however: AIFF or AAC (sans digital rights management). If you want to convert to MP3 or some other format, you need to do it in a separate app like iTunes.

The bottom line. Now we can listen to NPR's *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!* program whenever we want, wherever we are. It's about time.—Roman Loyola



COMPANY: Griffin Technology

CONTACT: 615-399-7000,

www.griffintechnology.com

PRICE: \$69.99

REQUIREMENTS: G4 processor,

Mac OS 10.2 or later, USB port

GOOD NEWS: Easy to use. Can fast-forward past commercials.

BAD NEWS: Doesn't work on sleeping Macs. Limited preset sorting.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

SoundBridge M1000

CHIC NETWORK MUSIC PLAYER

Roku's SoundBridge M1000 allows you to play your Mac's music on your home stereo or on a set of powered speakers. Sure, you can use Apple's AirPort Express (Oct/04, p48) to do the same thing for a lower price, but the M1000 has one distinct difference: With its LED display and remote, it is meant as part of your entertainment center, and not a device to stash away and plug into some wall socket or power strip.

The 10-inch-wide M1000 is 2.37 inches in diameter, and connects to your network via WiFi or Ethernet (an Ethernet-only version is available). The cables plug into the ends of the M1000 through slots in the pop-off plastic endcaps—on our test model, the endcaps didn't close securely. And beware: If you remove an endcap completely, the innards can slide out of

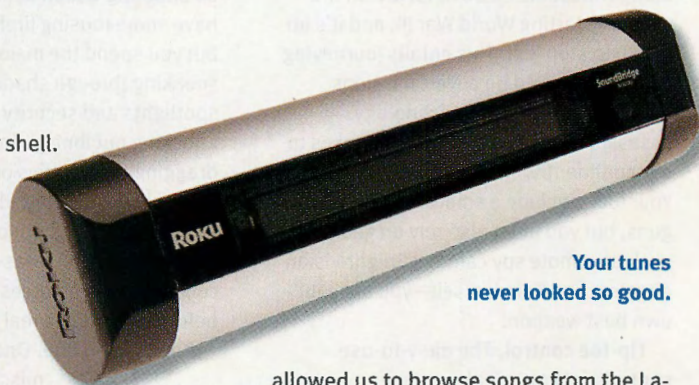
the M1000's outer shell.

You don't want broken Roku on your floor.

Tuned in.

After we rested the M1000 on the included rubber base, we fired up iTunes. The M1000 can see your shared iTunes music, but it can't play any songs you buy from the iTunes Music Store. The audio quality from both the powered speakers and the home entertainment center we connected was good, without any residual noise or distortion. We did encounter gaps—blame it on the WiFi reception.

The M1000 displays the song title, artist, album, time elapsed/remaining, and a music visualizer. The remote



Your tunes never looked so good.

allowed us to browse songs from the La-Z-Boy—no more running to the Mac. You can even access your Playlists, which is handy for when it's time to party or when you want to set a particular mood. You can use up to five SoundBridges with iTunes, so you can set them up throughout your home.

The bottom line. With its stylish looks and solid performance, the M1000 is a good way to share iTunes music—as long as your library isn't filled with protected AAC files.—Roman Loyola



COMPANY: Roku

CONTACT: 888-600-7658 or

408-848-2548, www.rokulabs.com

PRICE: \$199.99 or \$249.99 (with WiFi)

REQUIREMENTS: 400MHz G3

processor or faster, Mac OS 10.1.5 or

later, iTunes 4.0 or later, 128MB RAM,

Ethernet or WiFi

GOOD NEWS: Easy to setup and use. Attractive.

Works with iTunes. Displays song info.

BAD NEWS: Can't play music from the iTunes Music Store. Flimsy endcaps.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

Stylus CX4600

NO-FRILLS MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER

Scanning and printing on Epson's CX4600 is not only fast, but also it produces some of the best images we've seen from a multifunction printer, especially if you use Epson's DuraBrite paper. However, we found that Mac-less printing through the CX4600 gave us image quality that left a lot to be desired.

The CX4600 allows you to print directly from your camera's media card. What makes this feature cool is that you get a Scantron-like contact sheet that you use to pick the photos you want to print. You use a pencil to fill in the bubble next to desired images, and then you scan it and the CX4600 prints your selected pics. How convenient.

Lacks adjustments. The Mac-free

method offers very limited default settings. It doesn't support borderless photo printing, nor can you print a high-quality photo. Instead, you're stuck with mediocre prints until you can find the time to import your images and adjust the printer's settings. We typically found that unmodified images ended up with a muddy gray cast, a problem easily fixed by adding saturation in Photoshop.

Don't own Photoshop? Well then, you're stuck with what Epson bundles: ArcSoft's PhotoImpression 5 (www.arcsoft.com), a chintzy image editor and document creator—our 1.25GHz iMac G4 had speed issues with this app. Those with the itch to learn something new

Even if it can't cook you dinner or kill your enemies, the CX4600 is a solid all-in-one that gets the job done.

and semicomplicated can try GIMP (free, <http://gimp-app.sourceforge.net>).

The bottom line. If you're looking for a no-frills, all-in-one printer, scanner, and copier that won't give you any technical hassles, the Epson CX4600 gets the job done.—Noah Tsutsui



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK WADEO



COMPANY: Epson
CONTACT: 800-922-8911,
www.epson.com
PRICE: \$129.99

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 8.6 to
9.x or 10.2 or later

GOOD NEWS: Easy to set up and install. Reliable.
BAD NEWS: Lousy software package.

MacAddict RATED
SOLID

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Mac360.com

"I've gotten more favorable comments on my project than anything I've done to date."

Gregg, Photo to Movie user



June 2003 / Previous version



Photo to Movie

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LOGIC
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Eye-Q 4363z

DISAPPOINTING CAMERA

A 4-megapixel camera for \$179—sure is tempting, isn't it? That's what's appealing about Concord's Eye-Q 4363z camera. But the only thing you'll get from the 4363z is buyer's remorse—oh yeah, and a bunch of cruddy-looking pictures.

Pictures are supposed to conjure up good memories, but we spent most of our time wondering why our skin looked so bad in the 4363z's images—flesh tones lack consistency and showed poor blending. Shadow detail looked like a puddle of darkness, noise was everywhere, and our images lacked sharpness. We did all we could to make the images look better—adjusted the camera's options, made Photoshop

tweaks, tried professional image prints—but we were still left with disappointing results.

Can't see LCD. The 1.5-inch LCD is practically useless in low-light conditions. The LCD also washes out at certain viewing angles; you have to use the viewfinder instead. You can view your images by using the camera's video out to connect to a TV with the bundled AV cable.

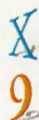
What did we like about the 4363z? It's easy-to-use. The buttons are placed well and feel solid, even though the camera is mostly plastic. The user interface for the camera's options is a breeze to navigate. Its size reminds us of point-and-shoot film



Too good to be true.

cameras, which might be familiar and comfortable for digital newbies. The 4363z has 3x optical zoom—sometimes you don't get any zoom with cameras this cheap.

The bottom line. If you wait long enough, a top-quality 4-megapixel digital camera for under \$200 will hit the market. Be patient. Or you'll be sorry.—Roman Loyola



COMPANY: Concord Camera

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 9 or

CONTACT: 954-331-4200, www.concordcam.com

PRICE: \$179

GOOD NEWS: Compact. Affordable. Easy to use.

BAD NEWS: LCD is hard to see at different angles and in low lighting. Poor image quality.

MacAddict RATED



LOUSY

d2 DVD±RW Double Layer

SPEEDY DVD BURNER

LaCie's 16X d2 DVD±RW Double Layer burner enters the battle for the fastest (and most chic) DVD±R burner on the block. The d2 can burn up to 8.5GB onto a double-layer disc at almost twice the speed of its predecessor, the 8X d2 DVD±RW (Oct/04, p62), and it burns single-layer DVD±R media at 16X. We thought the 8X d2 was fast—the 16X d2's speed is even more impressive.

There's lots to like about the 16X d2. It conveniently comes with a 10-foot power cable and 6-foot FireWire cable, and setup is a breeze. To use the double-layer burning features, you need an app that can do double layer (double layer refers to DVD+R, while dual layer refers to DVD-R). Luckily,



A high-quality burner at a reasonable price. Now if only we could afford the media.

Roxio's Toast Titanium 6.0.7 comes with the drive—you can also use the latest version of NTI Software's Dragon Burn (\$40, www.ntius.com). The sleek d2 case design makes the drive

easy to stack with other d2 storage devices, and it's conveniently portable for on-the-go burns.

The only performance shortcoming we can nail to the 16X d2 is its disc-access speed.

Though more expensive, the EZQuest Boa Firewire DVD+/-RW (\$225, www.ezq.com) boasts a disc-access time 60 milliseconds faster than the d2's. Yeah, it's *milliseconds*, but your time is precious, isn't it?

The bottom line. Willing to pay the high price for double-layer DVD media? We're talking \$10 per disc. If so, then the 16X d2 is worthy of your money. But if you can wait a while, you'll see prices drop on both the drives and the media, and you'll save some cash.

—Noah Tsutsui



COMPANY: LaCie

CONTACT: 503-844-4500,

www.lacie.com

PRICE: \$199 (with Toast 6 Titanium)

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 9.1 to 9.x or

10.1.2 or later (10.2.3 or later needed for

double-layer recording), 500MHz Power Mac

G4 or faster, 64MB RAM, FireWire

GOOD NEWS: Portable. Fast.

BAD NEWS: Pricey double-layer media.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

KCA-420i

PROMISING IPOD CAR ADAPTER

Car stereo cassette and FM adapters for iPods are downright clunky. However, if your car stereo's head unit is compatible with Alpine's Ai-NET one-cable interconnect scheme, you can use Alpine's KCA-420i Interface Adapter with a dockable iPod to put 'Pod control inside of your Alpine stereo. This system works, but it's not nearly as enjoyable as using the iPod's native interface.

We used the KCA-420i with Alpine's CDA-9833 CD head unit (\$450) along with the Versatile Link Terminal KCA-410C (\$149), which you need if you have a CD changer. The chunky 7.22-inch-wide, 6.31-inch-tall, and 1.38-inch-deep KCA-420i fits beneath the dashboard, though the cable connecting the iPod is only 2 meters long (it also charges your iPod).



Install the KCA-420i (inset), and you control your 'Pod via your car stereo.

'Pod control. Once you connect your iPod, you can use buttons on the head unit to scroll through song title, artist, and album info shown on the display screen—the controls are usable, especially after practice, but they're a tad contrived. For example, pressing Disc 1 on the head unit puts you in Playlist search mode; from there, you have to press the Search button, then use the Rotary Encoder (most people call it a knob) to actually scroll through the list. Not simple.

Scrolling through a few hundred songs via the head unit takes time. On the upside, when you plug your iPod into

the KCA-420i, it plays the song that's playing while you plug it in. You can disconnect your iPod at any time to plug in your headphones or another iPod.

The bottom line. If you don't have an Alpine car stereo with Ai-NET, this isn't a cheap way to go—you'll spend a few hundred dollars for the KCA-420i and installation by your friendly neighborhood car-stereo shop. If you're Alpine armed, it's a worth consideration, since the sound quality is better than that of stereo cassette and FM adapters.—Patrick Norton

COMPANY: Alpine
CONTACT: 310-326-8000,
www.alpine-usa.com
PRICE: \$100

REQUIREMENTS: Any 2004
Alpine Ai-NET head unit
for your car, dockable iPod

GOOD NEWS: Better audio fidelity than FM or cassette adapters.
BAD NEWS: No Alpine car stereo? Too bad. Interface requires practice to use.

MacAddict RATED
SOLID

inMotion iM3

IPOD SPEAKER STAND

If you take your iPod with you everywhere, you will probably want to hear your tunes through speakers instead of 'phones on occasion. Altec Lansing's inMotion iM3 portable speaker set makes that possible and is designed to work with all iPods, including minis.

Measuring 8 inches wide, 1.1 inches deep, and 5.5 inches high when folded, the sturdy iM3 comes with a carrying bag that also holds your iPod. The packed bag is small enough to stash in a side pocket of your backpack, carry-on luggage, or laptop case. If you don't have four AA batteries, you also need a pocket for the universal power adapter.

Unfold the iM3, place your iPod in the dock or connect it to the auxiliary input



A new buddy for you iPod.

jack with the included cable, turn on the power, and you're rockin'—sort of. Audio is midrange and bass heavy; highs can sound weak. There are no additional audio controls other than volume, so sound manipulation is limited to what the iPod offers.

The remote control has a range of about 15 feet, but it has standard controls only. That's fine if you have a Playlist going, but otherwise you have to get off your duff and manage tunes via your

iPod while it's docked (and charging its battery) in the iM3.

The bottom line. The iM3 is light and portable, ideal if you just want to hear a favorite tune without nipping sound quality.—Roman Loyola

COMPANY: Altec Lansing
CONTACT: 866-570-5702,
www.alteclansing.com
PRICE: \$179.95

REQUIREMENTS: iPod or other
audio source, four AA batteries (not
included)

GOOD NEWS: Clean looks. Portable. Light.
Universal power supply.
BAD NEWS: Weak high tones. No audio controls
other than volume.

MacAddict RATED
SOLID

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MADEO

Blue-WAV External

SLOW BUT SPACIOUS REMOVABLE DRIVE

When even DVDs don't offer enough portable storage space for your needs, you can opt for a removable hard drive—or you can get a Kano Blue-WAV optical drive, which uses 23GB removable cartridges. Blue-WAV is based on Sony's ProData technology, which employs a blue-violet laser set to a tiny 405-nanometer wavelength.

Blue-WAV uses SCSI and comes with an ATTO ExpressPCI UL3S PCI host adapter. Setup was no problem, and after formatting the included Sony PDD rewritable disc, we had 20.42GB of space—that's a lot of MP3s.

Catch the WAV. Tests with Xbench (free, www.xbench.com) showed that Blue-WAV was much slower than the

SuperDrive in our Dual 2.5GHz Power Mac. Blue-WAV had sequential data-transfer speeds around 4.06 MBps and 9.28 MBps when writing and reading, respectively, compared to the SuperDrive's 7.74 MBps (write) and 30.01 MBps (read). Things didn't get better with random read and write—the SuperDrive's 21 MBps (read) and 8 MBps (write) blew away Blue-WAV's 1 MBps and 2.38 MBps, respectively.

In our Finder copy tests, the Blue-WAV did better but was still slower than the SuperDrive. However, the SuperDrive was only 1 percent faster when copying a 2GB DV file.

Put the numbers in perspective—Blue-WAV has a much larger capacity than a



Ride the WAV—but expect a slow ride.

single- or dual-layer DVD. The ability to save a complete DVD project to one disc for transport is convenient and saves time. You can't benchmark that.

The bottom line. With the bundled Dantz Retrospect package, you can use the Blue-WAV for backup—it's too slow for use as a hard drive. The drive costs \$2,995, the discs cost \$45, and only other Blue-WAV drives can read Blue-WAV discs. Such restrictions and expenses might work for pros, but not for the rest of us.—*Roman Loyola*



COMPANY: Kano
CONTACT: 866-500-5266 or
714-379-5520, www.kanotechnologies.com
PRICE: \$2,995

REQUIREMENTS: Power Mac G3 or faster,
Mac OS 10.1.2, 128MB RAM, 50MB disk
space, available PCI slot

GOOD NEWS: Large capacity. Portable media.
BAD NEWS: Slow. Requires SCSI adapter.
Pricey. Hard to find media in retail stores.

MacAddict RATED
●●●●●
SOLID

Laptop Desktop USB

HANDY NOTEBOOK STAND

If you use your PowerBook or iBook as a desktop Mac, you may have developed a sore back and neck from hunching—unless you use four reams of paper as a notebook stand. Kensington's Laptop Desktop USB boosts your 'Book to new heights and provides a four-port USB 2.0 hub for your peripherals.

The Laptop Desktop was made with 15-inch 'Books in mind; a 17-inch PowerBook G4 fits, but its sides stick out of the Laptop Desktop's front shield (no big deal). The green logo plate at the top of the front shield doubles as a document clip—cool.

The bottom line. Avoid the Laptop Desktop if your 'Book has a front-loading optical drive, the stand will block it. Otherwise, the Laptop Desktop works nicely.—*Roman Loyola*



Put your 'Book on a pedestal.

COMPANY: Kensington
CONTACT: 650-572-2700,
www.kensington.com
PRICE: \$79.95
REQUIREMENTS: Notebook

GOOD NEWS: Looks cool. VESA mountable.
BAD NEWS: Blocks front-loading optical drives.

MacAddict RATED
●●●●●
SOLID

iMove

FREE-WHEELING CINEMA LCD STAND

It's easy to tilt iMac G5 LCDs and Cinema Displays, but what if you want to turn them left or right, or roll them backward or forward? If Apple's low-friction base provides too much resistance, there's always the iMove.

iMove is a thick plastic coaster with spherical casters made to fit either Cinema Display or iMac G5 stands. Slip your Display into the iMove's groove for lazy Susan-like maneuverability. Occasionally, it offers too much freedom of movement—since the casters don't lock, the Display slips and slides while you push and pull to adjust tilt.

The bottom line. Who's willing to spend \$149 (\$189 for the 30-inch Cinema Display) for a Display stand? Well, if you often spin your display to play to an audience, it might be worth buying.—*Roman Loyola*



You could call it the iCoaster.

COMPANY: MaxUpgrades
CONTACT: 951-278-0832,
www.maxupgrades.com
PRICE: \$149 to \$189
REQUIREMENTS: Aluminum Apple Cinema Display or iMac G5

GOOD NEWS: Clean looks. Sturdy.
BAD NEWS: Expensive. Casters don't lock.

MacAddict RATED
●●●●●
SOLID

Barbie as the Princess and the Pauper

CHARMING KIDS GAME

Vivendi's Barbie as The Princess and the Pauper is a sweet, adorable game your innocent little kidlet will enjoy.

As Erika, you need to prove that you are worthy of becoming the next Queen by performing a series of tasks, such as decorating your castle, helping the villagers in the marketplace, and playing with the family cat. The challenges mostly involve pattern recognition. The patterns aren't too complex, which allows your child to conquer a task in a short amount of time—it's satisfying to see your child recognize the pattern and feel rewarded.

The bottom line. BATPATP is simple and innocent. So are we, and so we liked it.—*Roman Loyola*

Much cuter than Doom 3 Hell Knights.

COMPANY: Vivendi Universal

CONTACT: 800-275-4576,

www.vugames.com

PRICE: \$29.99

REQUIREMENTS: 300MHz G3 or faster, Mac OS 9.2.1 to 9.x or 10.1.5 or later, 64MB RAM

GOOD NEWS: Cute. Easy to play.

BAD NEWS: Don't expect cutting-edge gaming technology.

MacAddict RATED



Headphones for Kids

JUNIOR-SIZE HEADPHONES

Those kid-show jingles sure stick in your head. Tunes like "Rubber Duckie" can haunt you for hours.

Kidz Gear's Headphone for Kids is an affordable way to cut audible clutter.

The adjustable 'phones are kid size (two years and older) and fit nicely. The cable is only about four feet long; you may need to buy an extension—if you can get your kid to wear these in the first place. You know how kids are.

Even though the Wiggles' "Fruit Salad" sounds terrific through the 'phones, they had muddled bass and hollow overall audio quality.

The bottom line. Get your child a pair, and you'll be one step closer to a jingle-free head.—*Roman Loyola*



The catch is keeping them on your kid's head.

COMPANY: Kidz Gear

CONTACT: 925-803-7506,

<http://gearforkidz.com>

PRICE: \$19.99

REQUIREMENTS: Headphone jack

GOOD NEWS: Good size for kids two years and older. Comfortable.

BAD NEWS: Short cord.

MacAddict RATED



From the studio to your desk.

STUDIOPRO 4™ Professional Desktop Audio Monitors

Thousands of artists and pro studios around the world use M-Audio monitors to record the music you love. Now our new StudioPro 4s bring the same unparalleled performance, technology and value to Mac lovers. They're the perfect companion for iPods, iTunes, AirPort Express, GarageBand and, well, your entire Mac music experience. Hear your music the way it was meant to be heard. Audition the StudioPro 4s at an Apple dealer near you today.



theHotList

THE BEST OF THE BEST FROM RECENT REVIEWS

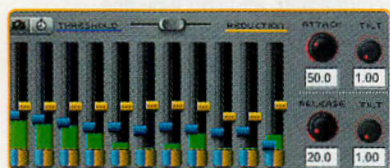
SHOPPING?
HERE'S WHAT WE
RECOMMEND

NEW THIS MONTH



Ableton Live 4

Audio veteran David Biedny lauds Live's new MIDI powers and a "potent array of filters and audio-processing tools."



Bias SoundSoap Pro

According to pro videographer Andrew Tokuda, this app "does an awesome job of cleaning up noisy recordings."



Glaresoft iDrum

David Biedny calls this software drum machine "a great tool for anyone looking to beef up their beats."



Nik Multimedia Color Efex Pro 2.0

Photo pro Steven Parke calls this set of 75 effects "a must-have for traditional photographers using digital cameras."

SOFTWARE

AUDIO

Ableton Live 4	\$499.00	Jan/05, p43	This top real-time sequencer now has improved MIDI powers.
Bias SoundSoap Pro	\$599.00	Jan/05, p42	Got noise in your video? Here's the app to clean it up.
Glaresoft iDrum	\$49.00	Jan/05, p48	This software drum machine includes hundreds of samples.
Native Instruments Guitar Rig	\$499.00	Nov/04, p40	Killer software plus a study stomp box will wow any guitarist.
Native Instruments Reaktor 4	\$559.00	Jun/04, p56	If you can imagine a sound, you can create it with this synth.

GAMES

Aspyr Call of Duty	\$49.99	Sep/04, p52	This shooter has tons of action, detailed locales, and fun.
Feral Interactive XIII	\$55.00	Oct/04, p52	This mission-based shooter has an old-style comic book feel.
MacSoft Halo: Combat Evolved	\$49.99	Mar/04, p38	It's as awesome as your Xbox buddies say it is.
MacSoft Unreal Tournament 2004	\$39.95	Jun/04, p48	The best first-person shooter adds new vehicles and weapons.

GRAPHICS & LAYOUT

Adobe InDesign CS	\$699.00	Feb/04, p46	More features and easier navigation make layout a snap.
Adobe Photoshop CS	\$649.00	Feb/04, p44	Just when you thought Photoshop couldn't get better, it did.
Alias SketchBook Pro	\$179.00	Dec/04, p40	This elegant app makes sketching and annotating easy.
Macromedia Dreamweaver MX 2004	\$399.00	Jan/04, p48	Our favorite Web-design tool adds improved CSS support.
Macromedia Flash MX 2004 Prof.	\$699.00	Jan/04, p48	Don't know how to write code? Flash MX will do it for you.
Nik Multimedia Color Efex Pro 2.0	\$299.95	Jan/05, p41	You'll be amazed by this plug-in's filters and darkroom effects.
Strata 3D CX	\$695.00	Dec/04, p43	Whether you're a 3D newbie or expert, this app's for you.
WoodWing Software Smart Styles CS	\$149.00	Sep/04, p50	Save and apply InDesign styles for objects, tables, and text.

PRODUCTIVITY & UTILITIES

Bare Bones Software BBEdit 8.0	\$179.00	Jan/05, p36	By far the most powerful text editor money can buy.
FileMaker Pro 7	\$299.00	Jul/04, p46	A complete rewrite vaults this database into the big leagues.
Microsoft Office 2004	\$399.00	Aug/04, p42	Enhancements to every app add up to a worthy upgrade.

VIDEO & ANIMATION

Adobe After Effects 6.5	\$699.00	Sep/04, p46	This upgrade is strong enough to be called version 7.
Apple Final Cut Express 2.0.2	\$299.00	May/04, p48	Unless you need to go Pro, Express will save you \$700.
Discreet Combustion 3	\$995.00	Sep/04, p47	If you're serious about video compositing, get this software.

HARDWARE

ACCESSORIES

Apple AirPort Express	\$129.00	Oct/04, p48	This portable wireless router will stream your iTunes music.
RadTech BT-500 Mobile Mouse	\$54.95	Aug/04, p58	Here's the perfect mouse for Bluetooth-equipped travelers.

AUDIO & VIDEO

Canon Optura Xi	\$1,499.00	Aug/04, p38	High-end features distinguish this mid-priced camcorder.
MCE Technologies QuickStreamDV	\$729.00	Aug/04, p57	This rugged DV-encoding drive includes a hot-shoe mount.
Sony DCR-VX2100	\$2,999.99	Aug/04, p39	Want to move up to the big leagues? Here's your camcorder.
Sony DCR-HC20	\$499.99	Aug/04, p36	This compact, inexpensive camcorder has great image quality.
Tivoli Audio iPal	\$129.99	Nov/04, p50	You won't believe the sound of this compact radio and speaker.

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Nikon Coolpix 5400	\$599.95	Dec/03, p22	This prosumer camera handles well and shoots even better.
Nikon D70 Digital SLR	\$1,299.00	Jul/04, p50	It's as close to perfect as any digital SLR camera we've seen.

PRINTERS

Canon i560	\$89.99	Sep/04, p28	Ninety bucks can buy an exceptionally capable photo printer.
Canon i860	\$149.99	Sep/04, p29	This printer's Photo Black cartridge makes color photos pop.
Canon i900D	\$199.99	Sep/04, p31	Gorgeous prints, CD printing, color-LCD editing—all good stuff.

SCANNERS

Epson Perfection 2580	\$149.00	Oct/04, p37	This flatbed handles both reflective and film scans with ease.
Epson Perfection 4180	\$249.00	Oct/04, p39	Superior image quality earns this scanner our recommendation.
Microtek ScanMaker i320	\$129.00	Oct/04, p35	Killer photo-rescue software comes with this affordable unit.

STORAGE

LaCie Big Disk Extreme 500GB	\$449.00	Aug/04, p55	Cutting-edge technology provides cutting-edge performance.
OWC Mercury Pro DVD-/RW	\$159.99	Aug/04, p60	The speedy drive includes everything you need to start burning.
WiebeTech G5Jam 1TB	\$1,739.95	Aug/04, p59	This internal 4-drive RAID makes a Power Mac G5 scream.

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The logo for the game "Rise of Nations" is positioned at the top left. It features a circular emblem with a globe in the center, surrounded by a gear-like border. The words "RISE OF NATIONS" are written in a stylized, metallic font across the emblem.

www.macsoftgames.com



**ask
us**

RENAME, REDUX

In the August 2004 issue, a reader asked about changing the short name in Mac OS X. You told them the best approach was to create a new account and transfer all of your files. Is there an easier way?

Absolutely. Dan Frakes, an editor of the must-visit Mac troubleshooting Web site MacFixIt



ChangeShortName can be a force for good or evil—read the docs before using.

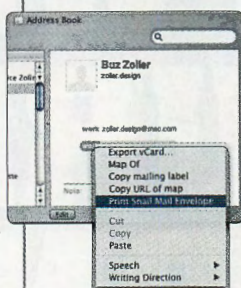
coauthored—ChangeShortName (free, www.macosxpowertools.com). This command-line utility makes all the necessary changes to alter your short name. Use it with caution, as it makes some pretty serious changes to your system.



to your system.
That said, we've
used it and it works
great!

EASY ENVELOPES

Are there any applications that let me print envelopes from my Mac OS X Address Book?



Snail Mail
integrates
envelope printing
and Address Book.

(free, <http://nixanz.com>). This terrific utility functions either as a stand-alone application that accesses the data in your Apple Address Book, or as an Address Book plug-in that allows you to create and print envelopes directly from Address Book. It's a terrific way to print lots and



lots of envelopes using your Apple Address Book database. And to beat all, it's free!

REMEMBER MEMORY MANAGEMENT?

I was wondering if there's a way to increase the memory allocation for a program in Panther, as you could do in Mac OS 9.

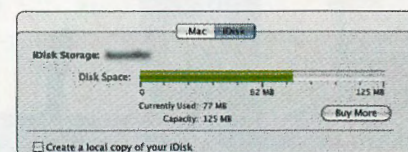
Changing your applications' memory allocation via the Get Info dialog in Mac OS 9 was indeed an important tool for fine-tuning performance. With Mac OS X, Apple built memory management into

the operating system so you don't have to worry about it—you can just enjoy the benefits of optimal memory allocation. There's an exception to this new-world rule: Some power apps, such as Adobe Photoshop and Apple's Final Cut Pro, have preference settings whereby you can override the system settings and command the lion's share of available RAM.

250MB WHERE?

Apple says it has upgraded my .Mac account to 250MB, but it only shows 125MB—what's the deal?

Apple increased your .Mac account from 100MB to 250MB back in September 2004, and even though your iDisk only shows 125MB, the company isn't pulling a fast one. That 250MB is for both iDisk file storage *and* email storage, which .Mac treats as different entities. Divvying up the 250MB between iDisk storage and email storage is up to you. Reallocate your iDisk space by logging in at the .Mac Web site (www.mac.com) and changing your Account Settings. You'll then see the changes in your .Mac preference pane.



Where's the other half of my 250MB?

iPHOTO EXORCISM

My iPhoto is completely unstable and either crashes, runs superslow, or presents me with the spinning beach ball of patience. What can I do?
Most iPhoto troubles are due to a

quick
answers

SCROLL DIFFERENT

I'm tired of clicking those teeny arrows in Finder windows to scroll through icons. Is there an easier way?

Locating and clicking those little arrows can get old. Try pressing Command-Option, then clicking and



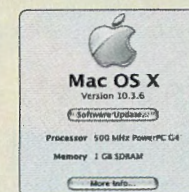
Another handy Command-Option trick.

dragging while you're in the Finder's icon view—you'll get the hand icon, and you can then grab and move the window's contents.

SUSS YOUR SYSTEM

How can I tell what version of Mac OS X I have on my computer?

Select **About This Mac** from the Apple menu, and a window will appear containing your version number. If it's



10.2.x, you're running Jaguar; if it's 10.3.x, you're running Panther.

Which cat do you have?

POSTER PRINTING

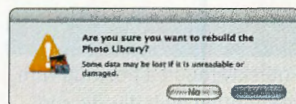
Is there any Mac OS X software that can help me create a poster-size image from



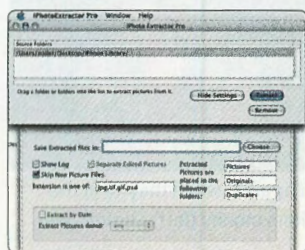
corrupt or confused image database. Your iPhoto Library can contain thousands of

files that iPhoto must catalog and keep organized. One bad file can make the whole shebang unusable. There are two general strategies for overcoming bad iPhoto information: rebuild or re-create your library. To rebuild your image library, hold down the Option and Shift keys while launching iPhoto. This can clean up a corrupt iPhoto Library, but you may need to run the rebuild more than once.

Your other option is to re-create your Library—in other words, start over. The easiest way to do this is to move your iPhoto Library folder from your *user name*/Pictures folder onto your desktop and then launch iPhoto. All your photos will seem to disappear, but that's OK—they're still on your desktop in the iPhoto Library folder you just put there. To reimport all



If rebuilding your Photo Library doesn't fix iPhoto...



...you can easily extract the goods and start from scratch.

my letter-size inkjet printer?

Check out Poster Print (about \$11, <http://luxor.fliieger.de/en/software>)—it can help you break an image into tiles that you can print and reassemble to create large posters.



REBUILD REMINDER

I forget—what is the key combination to rebuild the desktop in Mac OS X?

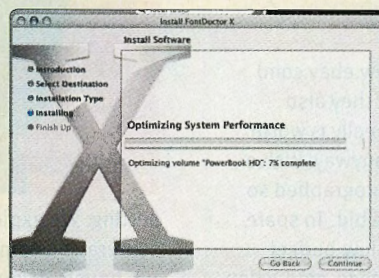
Thankfully, you no longer need this oldie for Mac OS X. If you need to do it for Mac OS 9 or earlier, hold down the Command

UNIX UNIVERSITY

OPTIMIZING WHAT?

What's really going on when the Mac OS X Installer says it's optimizing system performance?

Every application relies on lots of other components to function in Mac OS X. These components, called *libraries*, are part of Mac OS X's Unix workings—whenever an application launches, it



Optimizing wastes a little time now to save you lots more later.

these pictures, you could just drag the folder onto your iPhoto window, but this would create a mess with thumbnails, duplicates, and so forth. A better solution is to use iPhoto Extractor (free, <http://homepage.mac.com/butlers/iPhotoExtractor>). This utility pulls all of your images from your corrupt iPhoto Library and organizes them. You can then reimport the entire library into iPhoto.

PORTY POOPER

What ports should I block on my router to prevent anyone in my household from using person-to-person (P2P) software to illegally download music?

must access various libraries. The first time an application launches, it locates all the necessary libraries and makes a note of where they are, in effect binding itself to those library files. This is called *prebinding*. Every time an app launches, it must locate and load these files, which can be a slow process. With the introduction of Mac OS 10.2, OS X updates prebinding information when it notices the information may be incomplete, thus making the system run more efficiently and quickly. When your installer says it's optimizing system performance, it's updating the prebinding of the components you just installed. For more information about prebinding, check out the man pages for `update_prebinding` or `fix_prebinding` in the Terminal (see "Unix File Systems 101," below).

If you wish to limit the use of that type of software on your household network, blocking certain ports on your router's firewall is a great way to do it. In the ever-expanding lineup of P2P software, the most popular options include Kazaa, Morpheus, and LimeWire. You can block Kazaa by closing port 1214; you can block Morpheus and LimeWire, which use the Gnutella network, by closing 6346 and 6347, respectively. The documentation that came with your router should give you instructions on opening and closing ports.

UNIX FILE SYSTEMS 101

Var, bin, lib, etc...what's with all those crazy Unix-style folders in Mac OS X?

Look no further than the hier man pages. Simply open up Terminal (/Applications/Utilities), type `man hier`, and press Return—you'll get a nice little overview of what those Unix directories are for.



Buz is a graphic designer living in Florida. He has been a devoted MacUser for over 10 years, and has worked for both Apple and Power Computing.

Submit technical questions or helpful tips directly via email (askus@macaddict.com) or c/o MacAddict, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005.

and Option keys during startup until you get a prompt to rebuild the desktop for your hard disk.

WHY DO I SEE SPOTS?

Why do some menu items have three dots (an ellipsis) after them?

The ellipsis signifies that if you select that menu item, it'll prompt you for further information—another window will open up, requiring further input. If there's no ellipsis, then the command executes without further prompting.



Take Fab Photos on the Cheap

EASY

by Steven Parke

WHAT YOU NEED

Cheap digital camera

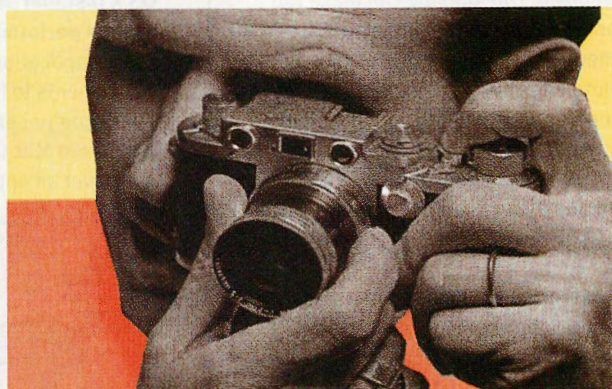
Household junk for backdrops, lighting, and props

Adobe Photoshop Elements 3

 (\$89.99, www.adobe.com) or comparable app

Online auction sites such as eBay (www.ebay.com) make the world our virtual yard sale; they also prove once and for all that a picture really is worth a thousand words—a *good* picture, anyway. We've seen eBay auctions where the item for sale is photographed so poorly (or not at all) that it doesn't garner a single bid. To spare you this e-humiliation, we're sharing our favorite low-budget lighting and photography secrets to make your image-production experience that much more rewarding—literally.

The two key aspects of product photography are lighting and



setting. We explore using both a basic point-and-shoot digital camera and common items you probably have lying around the house. If you've got a big setup of lights, professional backdrops, and a high-end camera, you probably don't need these tips—but they should give you a grin in any case.

1 Don't Be Foiled by Reflective Packaging

Collectors love MIB (mint in box) dolls (*action figures* to you, tough guy), but shooting packaged goods can be a pain because of the reflective plastic cases. Your camera's electronic flash will bounce off the plastic and ruin the shot, so use either ad-hoc studio lighting (your desk lamp) or natural light, both of which give you more control of lighting than your camera's onboard flash. Scout out your environment ahead of time, noting what type of natural lighting you get in the morning, noon, and evening. Look for diffused but fairly bright light.

We staged a set of boxed Living Dead Dolls on a nonreflective futon near a bright window and grabbed our trusty Olympus 460 (1.2 megapixels, circa 2000). Even under natural light, the box still causes a mess of reflection, but by moving the camera around

and tweaking the shooting angle we quickly found a position with acceptably low glare. And since we're shooting digitally, we can snap variations all day and pick out the keepers later.



Whether you call them dolls or action figures, when they're in the original packaging you can just call them money (left)...unless you photograph them incorrectly (right).

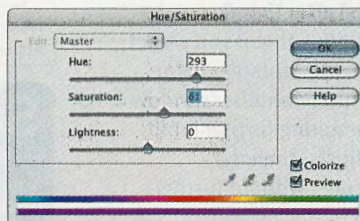
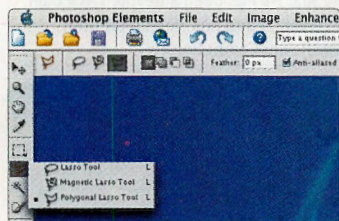
2 Make It Bounce Off the Background

Having captured a perfect shot of our boxed dolls, we realized that the background looked too much like what it was—a green futon. The solution? Obscure it with some color and liberal applications of blur. Click and hold on the Lasso tool in Elements' tools palette to reveal the alternate modes, and then select polygonal lasso tool. In the tool options palette (the horizontal bar directly above your image), leave the feathering set to 0 and carefully trace the outline of the boxes. If you're

unfamiliar with the polygonal lasso, you're in for a treat: Click once, drag to draw a straight line, click again to make a corner, repeat—perfect for outlining boxes. When you complete the outline, a dotted line indicates your selection.

Invert the selection (Select > Inverse), then select Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur to blur the background; we set our blur's radius to 20, but your tastes may vary. This makes the background less distinct but does nothing to provide a mood for the image, so we'll

adjust the hue. Select Enhance > Adjust Color > Adjust Hue/Saturation and click the Colorize check box, then twiddle the sliders from side to side until you achieve the color you want. We chose a regal, evil purple.



With Elements' selection tools (left) and color adjusters (right), isolating your background and beating it into submission is simple.

3 Backlight Your Baubles

Got some jewelry to hawk? Jazz it up with some subtle, classy lighting to play off the reflective surfaces—on a budget, of course! What we need here is backlighting: a translucent surface to set the piece on and a light source to provide light from underneath. Rather than resort to a professional light table, we found an empty oatmeal canister and a lantern that fits inside of it. Fire up the lantern, drop it into the canister and snap on the top. The light shines up from below and the jewelry looks fabulous, without the annoying shadows and glare we'd get shooting this piece with overhead lighting. Impromptu light tables are everywhere: a clear tabletop with tracing paper set on top and a lamp beneath; translucent storage boxes; a trash can under a white sheet—whatever.



A food container and a small lantern make the perfect mini light table for shooting jewelry.

4 Blow Out the Background

The downside to fudging your own light table is that the surface might look a little discolored, uneven, or otherwise cheesy. But you can whiten it right up with a bit of postproduction work in Photoshop Elements. Select the elliptical marquee tool from the tools palette, then, in the tool options palette, set feathering to 20. Click and drag to select the general area of the subject (hold the Shift key while drawing to get a

perfect circle), then invert the selection (Select > Inverse) to activate the background region. To fill the background with a uniform color, select Edit > Fill Selection; select White from the Contents pull-down menu for a white background. If you want to match your light table's particular shade of off-white, select Color from the pull-down menu and use the resulting eyedropper tool to pick the color directly from the image. Click OK to fill the entire background.

To make the jewels really pop, press Command-D to release the selection area, then select Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Brightness/Contrast to bring up the brightness and contrast controls. Tweak both sliders enough to brighten the background without washing out the main subject. The results look perfectly opulent, especially considering the low-tech lighting and camera.



Overhead lighting isn't bad, but with a little help...



...backlighting can make your junk look downright glamorous.

Post Production Wrap-up

Getting your enticing photos into an auction-ready, Web-friendly state is simple—just follow these guidelines.

Crop to Fit You're selling an item, not a scene. Plan your shots to exclude other objects in the background—it's easy to crop your item from empty space, but a refrigerator hulking in the background will distract from your composition. Select the crop tool from the tools palette and draw a selection marquee around your subject. Before committing to the crop, you can drag the selection box's little handles to resize it. Press the Return key to seal the deal.

Resize Cropped or not, if you snapped your product shot at, say 1,600 by 1,200 pixels, it's simply too big for eBay.

Open the Image Size dialog (Image > Resize > Image Size) to shrink (or expand) your shot to a more reasonable size. 400 by 400 pixels, give or take, is a good size for most items. At its default settings, Elements will automatically keep your image's proportions intact, so you can just change the value in the Width or Height field, and the other field will update with the appropriate corresponding value.

Save For Web Keeping your image's file size small will make your auction page load faster in bidders' Web browsers—and that's how bidding wars start, so slim that sucker down with Elements' Save For Web. Select File > Save For Web to bring up a side-by-side preview of your image as is, next to how it'll look if you save with the current settings. The JPEG Medium setting is suitable for most photographs.

Podcast Your Own Talk Show

by Niko Coucouvanis

WHAT YOU NEED

Mac OS 10.3 or later (\$129, www.apple.com)
iPodder (free, http://ipodder.sourceforge.net)
GarageBand (\$49 as part of iLife 2004, www.apple.com)
Soundflower (free, www.cycling74.com)
Lineln (free, www.rogueamoeba.com)
Built-in or external microphone or iSight
Publicly accessible Web space (including .Mac)
Transmit or other FTP client (\$24.95, www.panic.com)

OK, hipsters, there's a new Next Big Thing. Podcasting, brainchild of former MTV veejay Adam Curry (see "iPod: Radio of the Future," Jan/05, p10), is the practice of broadcasting audio content for iPod owners to download, sync to their 'Pods, and enjoy at their leisure.

Obviously, the RIAA says you can't podcast your MP3 library—you own those for personal use, not broadcast—so unless you're a prodigious (or simply megalomaniacal) musician, podcasting is more about sharing information, talk-show style.



BBEdit 8.0.2 demo,
iPodderX 2.2, Lineln 1.2,
Soundflower 1.1, and
Transmit 2.6.2



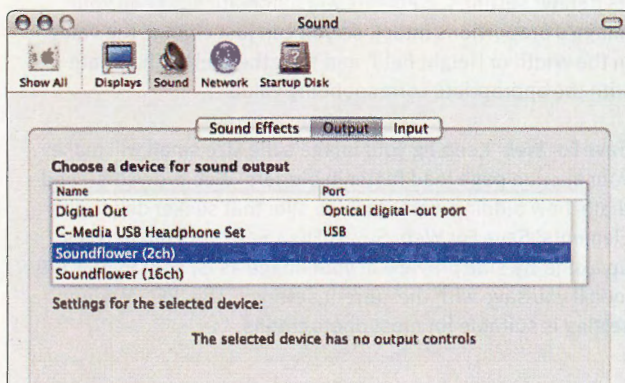
TRICKY

We show you how to record an iChat AV audio chat with an offsite guest into GarageBand for editing and processing. Then we show you how to prepare and export the MP3 and XML files that make up a podcast. Download Soundflower from Cycling74 (www.cycling74.com) or install it from this month's Disc, restart your Mac—and let's get this chat party started.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTINA EMPEDOCLES

1 Set the Stage

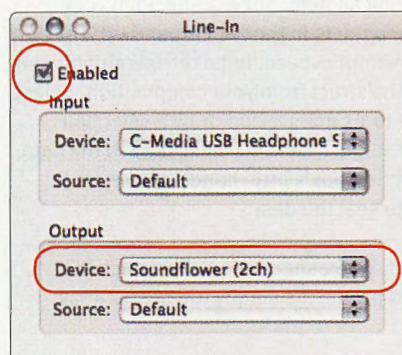
First you'll set up iChat AV and your Mac to route voice-chat audio directly into GarageBand for recording. Open System Preferences and click the Sound icon. Click the Output tab and select Soundflower (2ch) from the list; then select the Input tab and select Soundflower (2ch). Note that this effectively mutes your regular speaker setup, so you won't hear anything coming out of your Mac for a bit. When it comes time to record, you'll hear the action through GarageBand's recording monitor.



Handing off your system audio to Soundflower is the first half of patching iChat audio through to GarageBand.

2 Snag the Source

To record both sides of the iChat AV session, you must rely on another piece of audio freeware, Rogue Amoeba's Lineln—download it from www.rogueamoeba.com and drag it into your Applications folder. Double-click the Lineln icon and click the Enabled box. In the Input section, find the appropriate audio source. We used a USB microphone (incorrectly identified by Lineln as a C-Media USB Headphone Set—it's actually a MacMice MicFlex; \$49.99, www.macmice.com). If you're using an iMac or a laptop with a built-in mic, select Built-In Audio for the Device and Internal Microphone for the Source; for a mic that's plugged



Lineln pushes the chat into Soundflower—next stop, GarageBand.

into the Mac's audio port, select Built-In Audio (Device) and Line-In (Source); if you're using an iSight camera, you can select it by name under Device (Source remains at Default). Under the Output heading, set Device to Soundflower (2ch) and leave Source at Default.

3 Back in the Garage

Finally, prepare your recording studio (aka GarageBand). Launch GarageBand and press Command-N to create a new project. The new project will have an empty Grand Piano track—select it and press Command-Delete to delete it, then click the plus sign (+) or select Track > New Track from the menu. In the New Track dialog, click Real Instrument and select Vocals. Pick No Effects from the Effects list, and set Monitor to On so you can hear the action as GarageBand records it. Finally,



select GarageBand > Preferences and click the Audio/MIDI tab. Set Audio Input to Soundflower (2ch) and leave Audio Output set to Built-In Audio.

Make sure to turn on Monitor, or you won't hear word one of the interview.

5 Roll 'Em

With all of your audio properly routed and your guest on the iChat line, it's time to start the show. Click the Record button in GarageBand, then hop back to iChat and start gabbing. Feel free to pepper it up with sound effects, musical accompaniment, crude bodily sounds, or what have you as you record. When you're done, click Record again to stop recording. Finally, click GarageBand's rewind button, then click Play to hear the show. Feel free to add sound effects, looping musical backgrounds, and so forth—just don't overpower the chatting voices. When your show sounds perfect, select File > Export

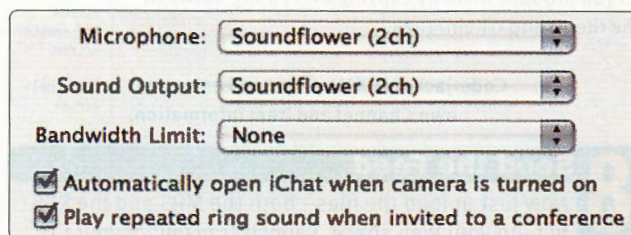
To iTunes to export the show in AIFF format to iTunes. If you left GarageBand's export settings at the defaults, the file will appear in a new Playlist that bears your Mac OS X user name.



Export your recorded interview into iTunes for podcasting.

4 Patch It Through

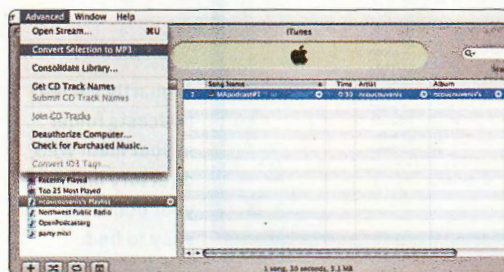
Now you need to tell iChat where to send the sounds of your chat. Open iChat's Preferences (iChat > Preferences) and click the Video tab. Don't worry if you don't have a camera attached; it's the audio you need. Set both Microphone and Sound Output to Soundflower (2ch) to route the whole chat session into GarageBand for recording. Now go ahead and invite a buddy to a voice chat by selecting his or her name in your Buddy list and then clicking the telephone icon. Once your guest of honor accepts and you establish a connection, you're ready to start recording.



Someday we'll podcast full-on video shows to vidPods—but for now we only care about iChat AV's audio.

6 Prepare Your Podcast

Before podcasting your show, squeeze it down into a more download-friendly format, such as MP3, which has a low bit rate. Open iTunes' Preferences (iTunes > Preferences) and select the Importing tab. Select Custom from the Setting menu and pick a nice low bit rate—40 Kbps will yield an acceptably small file with audio quality we dare say is good enough for a free podcast. Now click the file to select it, and choose Advanced > Convert Selection To MP3. Give the MP3 file a relevant name, such as MApodcast1.mp3, that'll hold up when your podcasting career takes off—you don't want a channel full of indistinguishable files.



Squeeze down the audio file's size.

Really Simple RSS Syndication

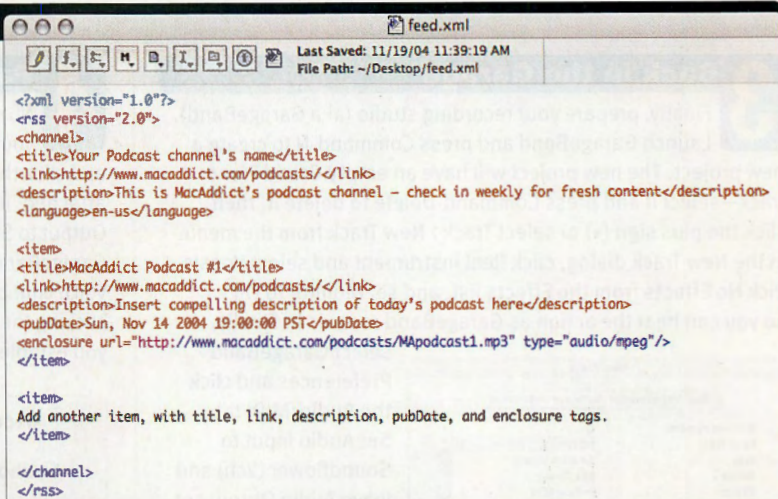
RSS stands for *really simple syndication*, but we call it an independent radio producer's best friend. A subset of XML (extensible markup language), RSS streamlines the delivery of any kind of file: text, audio, even photos and video clips. On the receiving end, people download or subscribe to RSS channels, which deliver the information directly to the desktop via an RSS-enabled Web browser (such as the upgraded version of

Safari scheduled to be included with Mac OS 10.4, aka Tiger) or a dedicated RSS reader. The RSS reader du jour is iPodder, (free, <http://ipodder.sourceforge.net>), a utility made specifically for *time-shifting* (record now, listen later) digital content for iPod users. And in case you're getting any bright ideas about starting up a radio station, keep in mind that it's highly illegal to broadcast music if you're not legally entitled to do so.

7 Roll Your RSS

Roll up your sleeves—this is the geeky part. Launch BBEdit, TextEdit, or any text editor capable of generating plain-text files—even Microsoft Word. Copy our example exactly or use the RSScode.txt file on this month's Disc, substituting your channel's title, link, description, and language, and all other variables between the `<item>` tags. Don't forget the closing `</channel>` and `</rss>` tags at the end (check <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/tech/rss> for the full RSS spec). Save the file as an XML file, named something like `myfeed.xml`. You can add more items as you produce them by copying everything between the `<item>` and `</item>` tags.

Code-jack this XML page, and enter your own Channel and Item information.

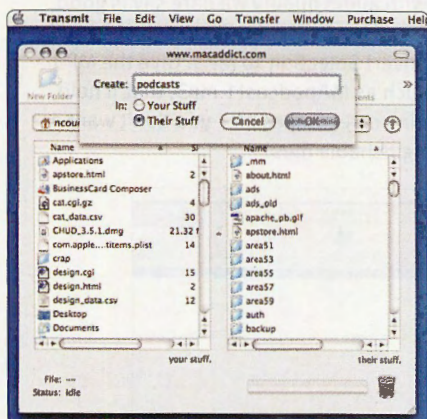


8 Seed the Feed

Now just upload the files—both the MP3 and the RSS file—to your Web space. Launch Transmit or your FTP client of choice and connect to your Web server (if you don't have the pertinent information, you'll have to get it from your ISP). Navigate to your root Web directory and add a new folder there by clicking the New Folder icon. Name it *podcasts* and upload your podcast files to it. You can also use your .Mac home page: Select **Go > iDisk > My iDisk** in the Finder to mount your iDisk, open the Sites folder inside and create a new folder (Command-Shift-N) called *podcasts*, and drop your MP3 and XML files inside. Now your podcast will be

available at <http://homepage.macos.com/~your user name/podcasts/myfeed.xml>.

A smartly named podcasts folder in your main Web directory makes your podcasts easy to find.

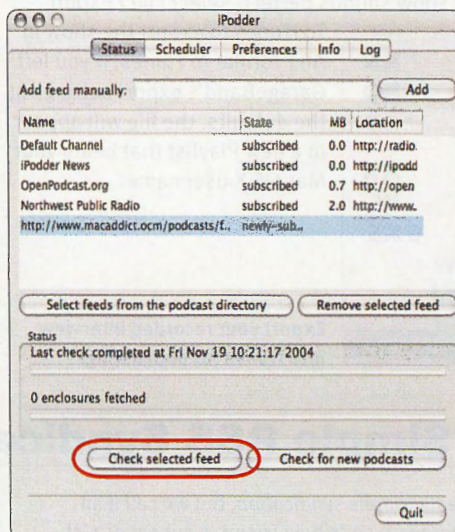


Aggrandize Thyself


Is a show without an audience a show at all? Nope—so spread the word of your podcast far and wide. Start by registering at the iPodder site (www.ipodder.org) and www.podcast.org. If you're doing anything remotely Mac-related, even if you're simply sharing Mac banter with your dog, whip up a little informative Web page and send an announcement to MacSurfer's Headline News (www.macsurfer.com), which will post almost anything having to do with the Mac.

9 Testing, Testing, One, Two, Three

Before you tell the world about your new podcast, you should make sure it works. Download and launch iPodder (www.ipodder.org). (We chose the original iPodder, but you can download iPodderX from www.ipodderx.com if you prefer its more iTunes-like interface and prefer \$19.95 shareware to open-source hippieware). Using iPodder couldn't be easier: Just type the URL of your RSS feed into the box labeled **Add Feeds Manually**, then click the newly added feed in the list and click the **Check Selected Feed** button. If it works, you'll see some activity in iPodder's status bars and iTunes will launch. A new Playlist with your podcast channel's name will appear in the list, and your MP3 file should be in that Playlist. Next time you check the channel, iPodder will add the new content to the Playlist. Any future channels you add to iPodder will work the same way, with a separate Playlist created for each channel.



Once you add the feed's URL to the Channel list, you can check it for fresh content anytime, or schedule automatic checking.

 Niko Coucouvanis is wearing all six iPod socks right now, not a one of them on his iPod. Aren't you glad he's working with audio instead of video?

Stranger in a strange land?

(Steer clear of ever getting lost again)



Spanish Highway photo by Bonnie Celeste

Show your PowerBook some love

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"There are few products that are nearly perfect right out of the box. PhoneValet, by a company called Parliant, is one of them." Boston Herald



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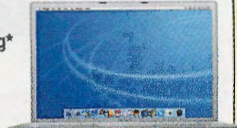
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Storage & Networking



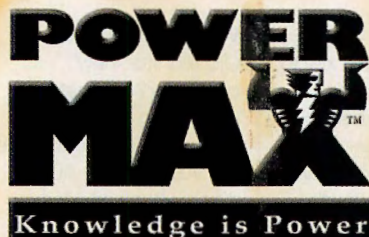
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DIGITAL VIDEO

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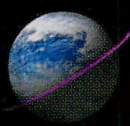
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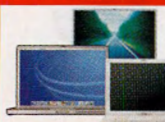
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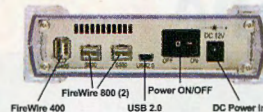
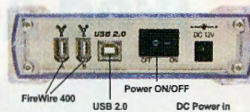
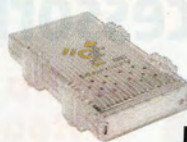
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* Elite 800 Pro FW800/400 solution has same ports as pictured FW800/400 + USB model, without the USB 2.0 port.

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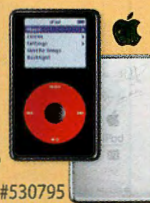
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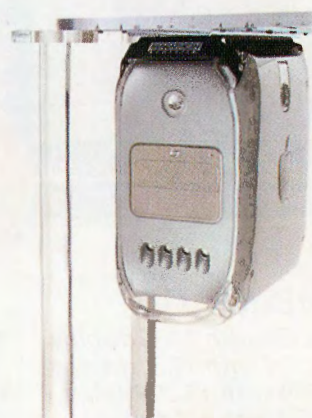
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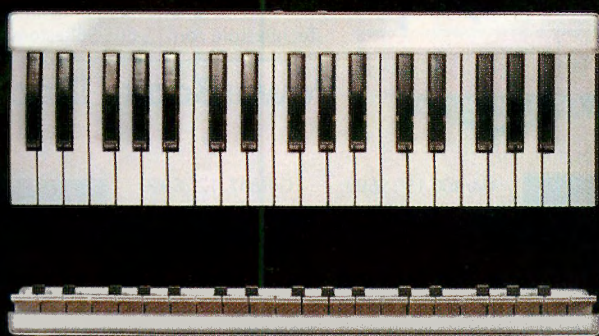
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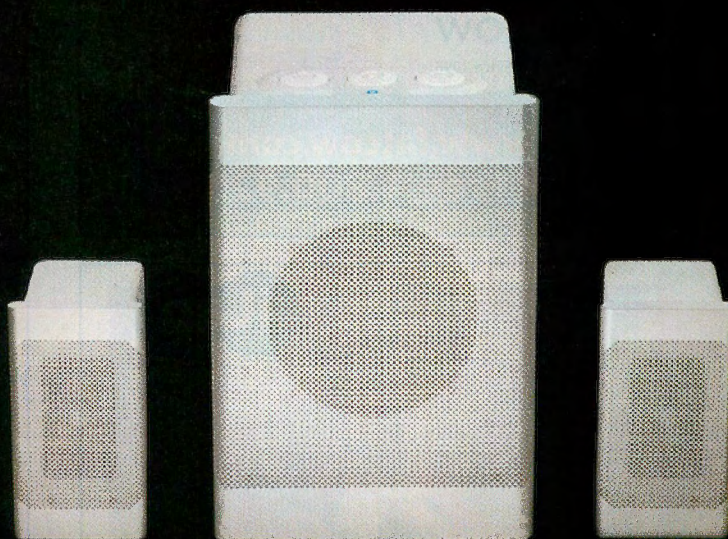
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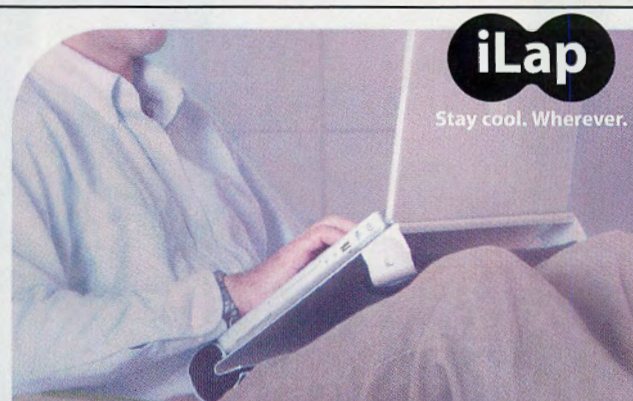
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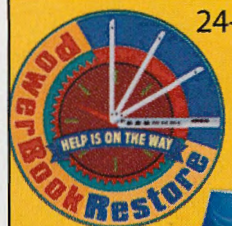
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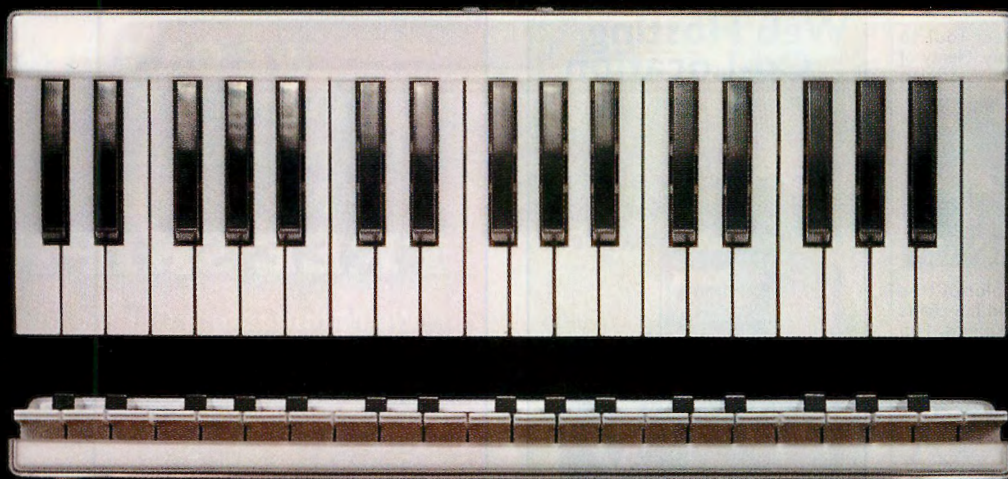
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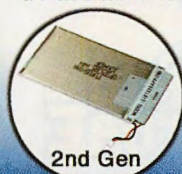
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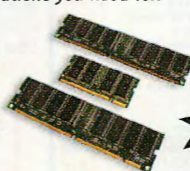
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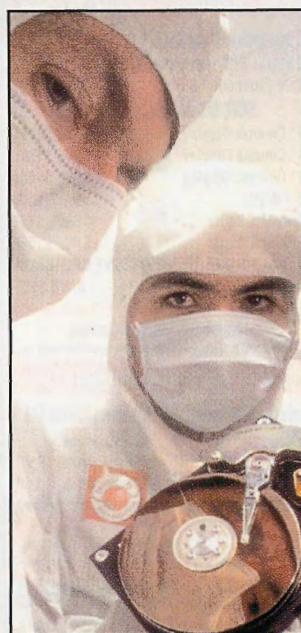
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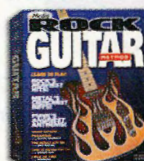
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LETTERS

MACADDICT MORTAR

Can someone please tell me the URLs Kris Fong mentioned in her Power User column in the November issue? "So, why don't you just whip out that trusty old *MacAddict* and look them up," I hear you ask. "Because it was blown up," I reply. Really. I'm in Iraq and the camp I'm in got hit with a mortar attack last night that destroyed my copy. Oh, and no one was injured in the attack—a lucky shot got the table where I had been reading the magazine.—*Sergeant Greg Bell (from the MacAddict.com Forums)*

Your tale puts my anger at the occasional kernel panic in a little perspective, Sergeant Bell.—Max

ANTICIPATION

Do you have cameras in my house? Every time my boyfriend decides he wants to do something with his Mac, the next issue of *MacAddict* runs a detailed article on how to do it! I want to know how you know what he is thinking!?! (And please stop because it is getting expensive.)—*Alysson*

We've also noticed that you

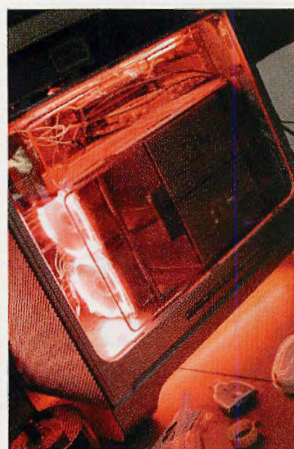
need to do your laundry, but mentioning that in print just seemed tacky. Whoops.—*Max*

TAKE IT SLOW

Your reply to the question "What guitar-related resources are available for the Mac?" (*Ask Us*, Dec/04, p52) left out the most important piece of software for a guitarist or any other musician: Amazing Slow Downer from Roni Music (\$39.95, www.ronimusic.com). This cool app does truly amazing things: slowing down and speeding up without a pitch change; changing pitch; looping; and equalizing. It's even got a Karaoke mode to eliminate vocals.—*Dean Gillispie*

MOD SQUAD

I see more Mac fans are trippin' out their G4s and



Trippin' the light. Fantastic!



IF PHONELY...

Here is something we Mac addicts are missing.

—*SABA'A7, a small group of Mac-addicted designers*

G5s. Well, I'm on the bandwagon too. I think I might have a techno-addiction—I blame you.—*Thon*

FILM-FUN FAN

One of the beyond-the-fringe benefits of my trading up to a new 15-inch PowerBook G4 (from my überbuggy beige G3 running Mac OS 9.1 and an ancient version of QuickTime that I didn't dare upgrade) was that I could finally catch up on months of *MacAddict* staff videos. Here's a tip that might save others: Try not to watch them all in one sitting. Trust me on this. According to my husband, I laughed nonstop for 3.7 hours and then tried to dance with the desk lamp. If loving *MacAddict* is wrong, I don't want to be right!

—*Paula Tompkins*

Of whom is your husband more jealous, Paula, us or the desk lamp?—Max

AD-ACIOUS ATTIRE

I thought I'd share these pictures of my sister Lisa and her friend Maggie with their cool iPod ad costumes this Halloween. The iPods are constructed out of Vitasoy milk boxes.—*Frank Wu*



Which one's Bono?

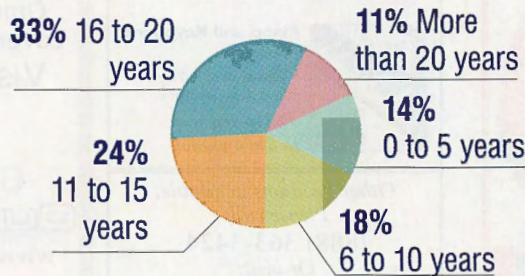
COFFEE, TEA, OR 'POD?

I liked the photo of the guy

Survey Say

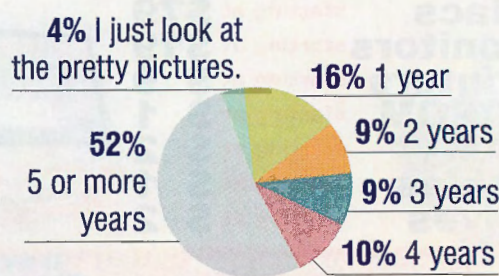
Here are the results of our October 2004 survey. Check out www.macaddict.com each month for a new online poll.

How many years have you been using Apples/Macs?



675 respondents

How many years have you been reading *MacAddict*?




795 respondents

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LOG OUT  79

who mounted his iPod in his Cessna (*Letters*, Oct/04, p95). I bring my iPod with me to work all the time—it makes a great addition to any commercial airliner. I even tapped it into the



Apple's
new
iPod.

aircraft audio system—there's nothing better than rocking out at 37,000 feet in my Bombardier CL-65!
—Michael Hahn

HIDDEN CHARMS

Flipping through your

"100th Issue Spectacular" (Dec/04, p18)...how cute: The opening drop caps of each year spell out M-A-C-A-D-D-I-C-T—Shannon Y

I don't suppose I could convince you that it was just serendipity, hm?—Max

PERVERSION?

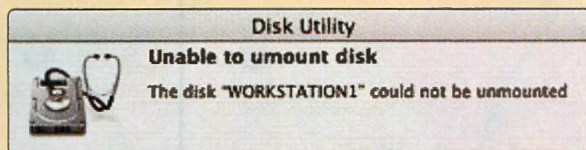
I was extraordinarily offended by your review of Feral Interactive's XIII (Oct/04, p52), particularly the photo of the (animated) character getting his head blown off. Maybe some of your fan-boy readers get their rocks off playing perverted violent games, but it's disgusting and reprehensible that you would publish such graphic photos.—Mel S. Hutson

Mel, might your reference to getting one's "rocks off" also be considered a wee bit disgusting and reprehensible, perversionwise?—Max

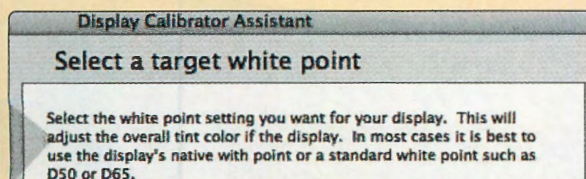
TO ERR IS HUMAN

Was it a Freudian slip that generated the typo, "Apple hasn't shown signs—in pubic, at least—of running Mac OS X on Intel microprocessors" in "Mac OS X for PCs" (Dec/04, p16)? I'm sure some dirty little minds are running in overdrive right now.—Janet Loftis

Thanks to Janet and the 16-and-counting other readers who pointed out our unfortunate gaff. Thanks also to reader Toti Dimalanta, who supplied us with the following Mac OS X screenshots, proving that bad typos can happen to good people.—Max



Disk Utility tells us we can't unmount a volume.



See how long it takes you to spot the two typos in Display Calibrator Assistant.

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Only one entry per contestant.

Entry Form



Write a caption
for this picture.

CONTESTANT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____
Email or telephone: _____

Send email entries to: contest@macaddict.com with the subject: M-Audio Contest (Don't forget to include your address information!)
Send snail-mail entries to: M-Audio Contest, MacAddict magazine, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005.
Deadline for entry: February 28, 2004. Contest results will appear in our June/05 issue.

Contest Rules The judges will be MacAddict editors and will base their decision on 33 percent humor, 33 percent originality, and 33 percent creativity. All entries must be received no later than February 28, 2004, with the winner announced around June 2005. By entering this contest, you agree that Future Network USA may use your name, likeness, and Web site for promotional purposes without further payment. All prizes will be awarded, and no minimum number of entries is required. If two or more people enter identical winning captions, the entry received first will be awarded the contest prize. Prizes won by minors will be awarded to their parents or legal guardians. Future Network USA is not responsible for damages or expenses the winners might incur as a result of this contest or the receipt of a prize, and winners are responsible for income taxes based on the value of the prize received. A list of winners may also be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Future Network USA c/o MacAddict Contest, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005. This contest is limited to residents of the United States. No purchase necessary, void in Arizona, Maryland, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and where prohibited by law.

Winner!

Congratulations to Norman Shearey, who won an Epson Stylus Photo RX600 printer, copier, and scanner (\$349, www.epson.com). "Survey says, you're not pregnant!"





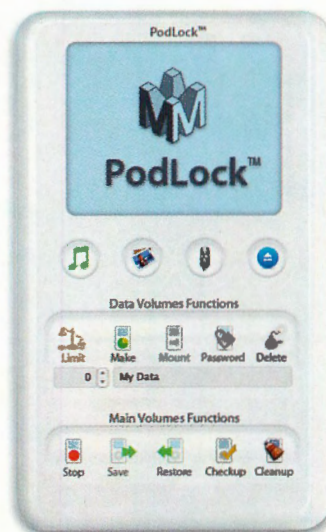
iPod shoe.

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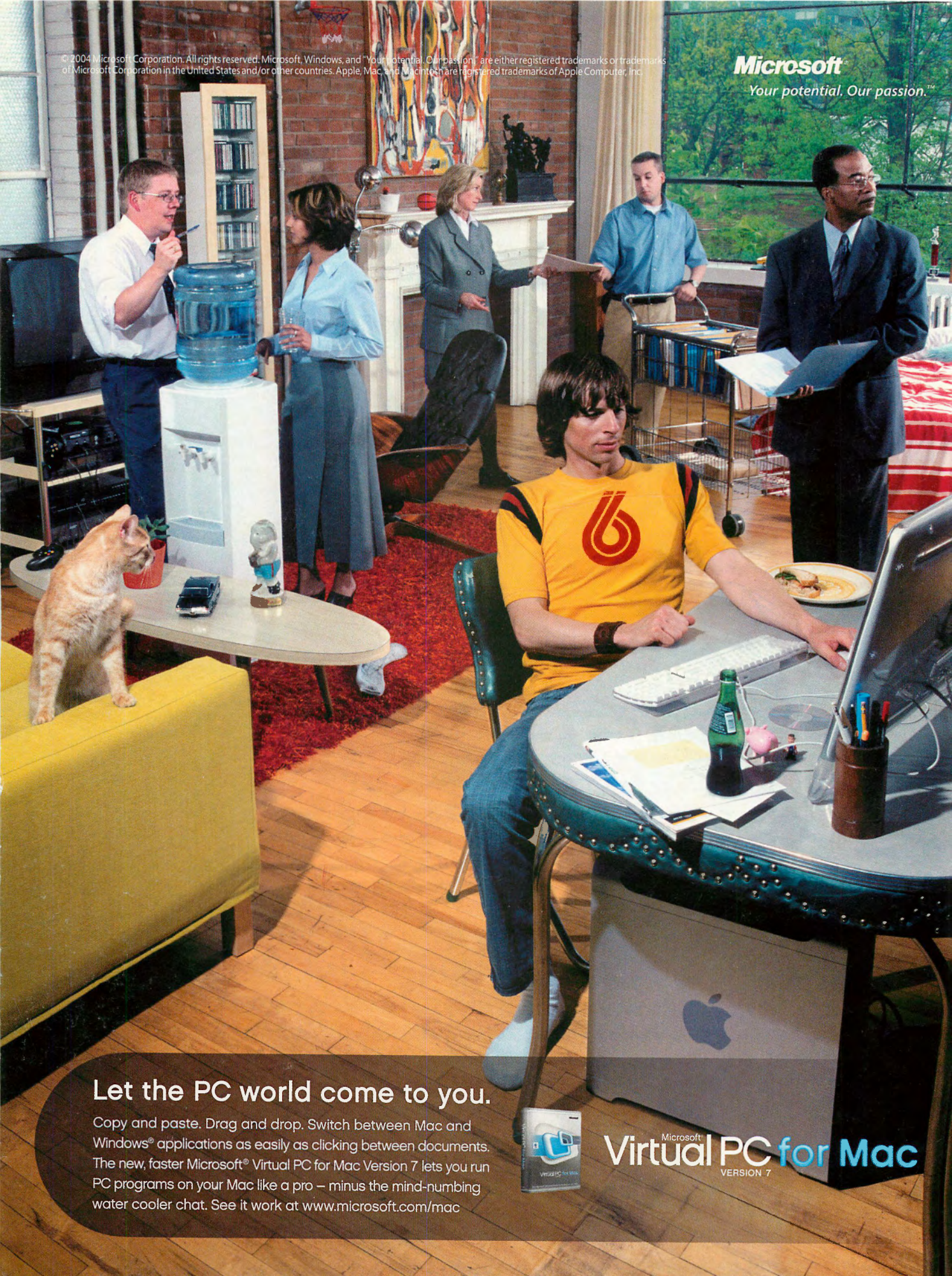
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